



Test 5

Reading



Amazing migrations

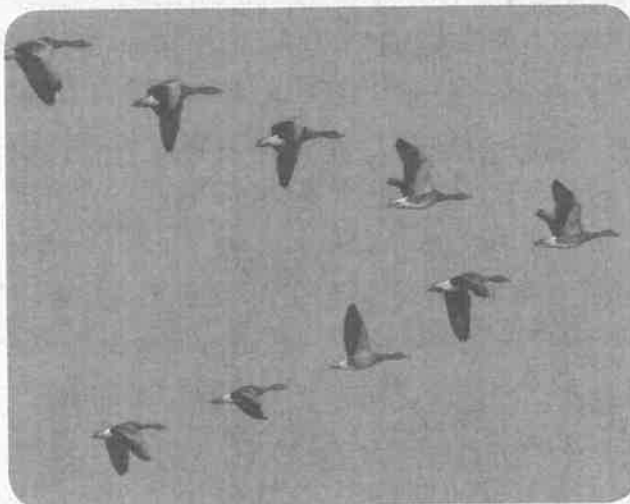
Have you ever seen geese flying in a 'V' formation overhead, or a flock of swallows resting on a telephone line? Have you ever wondered where they are going and why?

These birds are probably heading south for winter in an amazing seasonal migration. Many types of animal migrate.

This means that they travel from one place to another. Birds often live in one habitat during one season and then fly to another for the next. For example, swallows arrive in Britain in spring and spend the summer months breeding. They return to their wintering grounds 6000 miles away, back in South Africa, in autumn. Some even cross the Sahara Desert as part of their journey! These tiny birds travel during the day, flying at low altitudes and finding food on the way. As they cross huge hazards like the Sahara, they risk starvation and exhaustion. Amazingly, on average, a migrating swallow can fly at twenty miles an hour for ten hours a day.

But why go to all that effort? It's simple really. Migration is a form of behavioural adaptation – a way of behaving that helps creatures to survive. Animals migrate because they need to find food, a suitable place to breed, and shelter from dangerous weather. If they didn't migrate, they wouldn't be able to survive or reproduce.

It's not just small animals that migrate. Blue whales are the largest animals on the planet and they also migrate. During the summer, they travel up to 3000 miles north or south to the colder waters of the polar regions to feed. Blue whales mostly travel there alone or in small groups.



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However, larger groups of whales have been spotted, usually within these colder feeding grounds. In winter, the whales migrate to breed, swimming back towards warmer waters near the equator.

Blue whales eat krill, which are shrimp-like creatures the size of your little finger. A blue whale needs to consume about four tonnes of krill every day. The whale expands its throat and sucks in water and krill. It then filters the water through baleen plates in its mouth and swallows the krill that have been trapped.

Climate change may be affecting the blue whale's food supply and migration patterns. Global warming means that sea temperatures are rising. This means that the krill populations are shrinking north and south closer to the poles. Scientists are concerned that the blue whales will have to migrate even further to reach these food-rich areas. These longer journeys will require more energy and reduce the amount of time the whales spend feeding and building up their strength.

Did you know?

Some monarch butterflies travel an incredible 3000 miles in a year when they migrate. In fact, they spend most of their lifetime migrating and use the Earth's magnetic field to navigate. However, that's nothing compared to tiny Arctic terns, which fly up to 400 miles every day travelling from the Arctic to the Antarctic and back again every year. That's an amazing 45,000 miles in total!

1. What is a migration?

Marks



1

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10
MINS

2. Where do swallows spend the winter?

Tick **one**.

- Britain South Africa
Sahara South Pole

Marks



1

3. Look at the sentence: *As they cross huge hazards like the Sahara, they risk starvation and exhaustion.*

Which of the following words is closest in meaning to the word hazards?

Tick **one**.

- areas deserts
obstacles dangers



1

4. Why do some animals migrate? Tick **all** the **correct** statements.

- to find a food source to find somewhere hot
to find somewhere nice to live to find safety from bad weather
to find a mate to find their way home



1

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10
MINS

5. Complete this table about the blue whale's migration habits.

Region	Sea temperature	Reason the whales go there
polar regions		

Marks



2

6. How do monarch butterflies find their way when migrating?



1

7. Three types of birds are mentioned in this text. Name all **three**.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



1

8. Using the text, explain how whale migration is different from swallow migration.



2

Well done! END OF READING TEST 5!