

## **Title:** Migration Racin’

**Objective:** Learn which animals migrate; imitate movements of migrating animals

**Time:** 10 minutes

**Materials Needed:** Migrating animal card for each student  
(Blackline master on CD)

### **Directions:**

1. Make 3-4 copies of migrating animal card sheets. Cut into individual cards and give one to each student.
2. Give each student a note card and instruct them to think of how they could imitate this animal’s movement from their Summer Home to their Winter Home.
3. Using the gym or marked area outdoors, establish an area for the Summer Home which will be the starting line. Line up the class on this line.
4. Establish an area for the Winter Home about 25 meters from the starting line. This is the finish line.
5. Call out one migrating animal. These animals should migrate from their Summer Home to their Winter Home using the movement they have created.
6. Continue calling out animals until all students have had a turn.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. How do animals know the route from their summer home to their winter home?
2. What might affect how far an animal migrates?

### **Variation:**

Students may return to their summer home using the same movement or by borrowing an idea from a classmate that seemed to work better.

#### **Activity**

Suggested Season: Any

Suggested Grade Level: K-5

Indoors or Outdoors: Gymnasium or Outdoors

Theme: Migration

Topic: Animals

## **Standards Addressed:**

Science: 0.3.2.2.1.; 0.4.1.1.1.; 1.4.1.1.1.; 1.4.2.1.2.; 2.1.1.2.1.; 5.4.1.1.1.

Language Arts: K.I.B.; K.I.C.; K.II.B.; K.III.A.; 1.I.C.; 1.III.A.; 1.III.B.1.; 2.III.A.; 3.I.B.1.; 3.III.A.2.; 4.I.B.1.; 5.I.B.; 5.III.A.1.; 5.III.A.2.; 5.III.A.4.

Math:

Social Studies:

## **Background Information:**

- How animals know the direction to migrate is not completely understood. Many studies have been done on how the animals know where they are and where they are going. Studies of salmon indicate that they depend on their sense of smell to locate and return to their stream of origin. Mammals often follow established trails and probably also use their sense of smell. Bats, whales and seals use echolocation to navigate in the dark or underwater.
- Animals that live in habitats where it is hard to survive year-round must find a way to cope with difficult times of year.
- New habitats offer greater availability of food, water, and shelter. Some animals migrate for other reasons including safety and mating.

## **Additional Resources:**

- *Amazing Animal Journeys* by Liam O'Donnell
- *The Journey: Stories of Migration* by Cynthia Rylant
- <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/coloring/migrate.shtml>

This website offers printouts of migrating animals along with other facts related to the animal.

## **Correlates with:**

Greeting – Honk, Hiss, Ribbit: What's Migrating?

News and Announcements – Animal Migrations

red-tailed hawk	buffalo
goose	loon
zebra	caribou
monarch butterfly	humpback whale