

DIY Migration Map

Introduction

Have you ever wondered why you only see certain animals while the weather is warmer? In Discovery World's home state of Wisconsin, many animals migrate here for the warmer months, then migrate to other parts of the country when it gets colder. Study these patterns, become a Migration Specialist for a day, and make your own Migration Map!

Think About This



- What kinds of species do you see in your region over the summer?
- How do they survive the colder months?

Tools & Materials



- Paper maps
- Colored pencils or markers
- Blank paper
- *Optional: Google Earth App

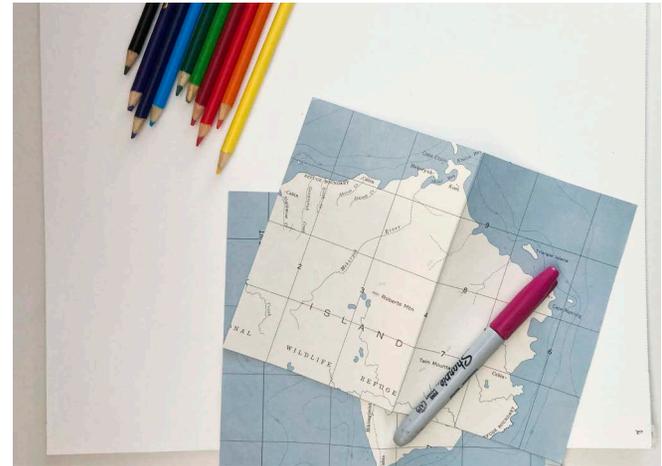
Do Ahead of Time



Research your region and see which species migrate there. Research their migration habits; how far can they travel in one day? In which month does their migration start and end? What do they eat? A great resource is www.ebird.org and www.birds.cornell.edu. Take a walk around your neighborhood and make notes of important migratory features like food sources and habitats. Additionally, if you have seen any species, make a note of where!

Directions

- 1 Gather your materials. See if you can find a spare paper map, any map will do! You will use this for a warm-up activity.



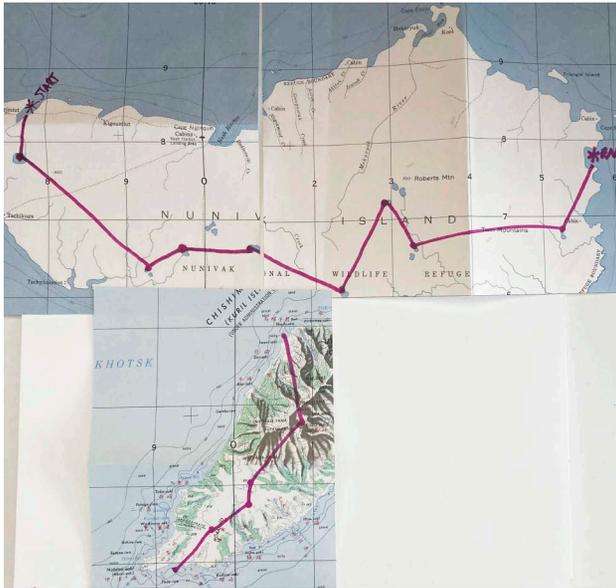
- 2 Lay out your paper map and see if you can find some common water features like marshes, beaches, or other bodies of water. Many migratory birds like Sandhill Cranes, Great Blue Herons, Canada Geese and pelicans use water features to rest and feed during their migrations.



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Directions Continued

- 3** Identify these common water features on your map and draw a line connecting them as well as a start and end point. Try and create a general North-South or East-West direction with your lines. You can use the map key to count how many miles this hypothetical migration would be. This is your first try at a Migration Map!



- 4** Time for the part 2, this is where your research comes in. Draw a map of your neighborhood and use your notes of where you have seen migratory species, their food source or their habitat. If you can't find any species, try going out at a different time of day. You can also go out for a few days in a row to locate species.

Example 1: In Wisconsin, migratory hummingbirds that spend the summer here feed at hummingbird feeders, have you seen feeders in your neighborhood? Note it on the Map!

Example 2: Monarch butterflies make a long migration to and from Mexico each year. They feed on certain flowers and Monarch caterpillars feed on milkweed. Make a note of where you have seen a local butterfly garden or milkweed growth!



- 5** Check the next page for a digital extension activity!

Send us a picture of your project to
AtHome@discoveryworld.org
for a chance to have your work
featured by Discovery World!

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Take it Further!

Download the Google Earth App, find your region or explore a new one! Imagine you are a migratory species of your choosing and map your journey using ecological features. We mapped the potential path of a Canada Goose flying south and stopping at various ponds, lakes, and beaches.

Think About This



- How far can this animal travel in a day?
- What is the food source?

Directions

- 1 After doing your research, find a starting location for the journey.
- 2 Use the tool in the upper right of the app that looks like a ruler. Map your first point using the “add point” button.
- 3 Continue with this process for as long as you’d like! How far is your total journey? Was it easy or difficult to find possible places to rest and eat?

