

C4. Migration

Migration: Amazing Journeys across the Globe

Have you ever wondered why some birds fly thousands of miles across the sky or why some animals travel long distances every year? It's because of migration, a remarkable natural phenomenon where animals travel from one place to another in search of better food and weather conditions. Let's explore migration, where it takes place, when it happens, which organisms migrate, and why they do it.

What is Migration?

Migration is the regular, seasonal movement of animals from one region to another. It is often a long and challenging journey that animals undertake to find food, escape harsh weather, or reproduce in the best possible conditions.



Where Does Migration Take Place?

Migration can occur in various parts of the world, depending on the species of animals. Some animals migrate between different continents, while others migrate within the same country or region. For example, some birds fly from North America to South America and back, covering thousands of miles during their journey.

When Does Migration Happen?

Migration usually takes place during the changing seasons. Many animals migrate during the fall and spring, as these periods offer better weather and abundant food sources. During the fall, animals migrate to warmer regions, while in spring, they return to their breeding grounds.

Which Organisms Migrate?

Migration is observed in various animal groups, including:

Birds

Many bird species are known for their impressive migratory journeys. Some well-known migratory birds include the Arctic Tern, which travels from the Arctic to the Antarctic, and the Monarch Butterfly, which migrates from Canada to Mexico.

Fish

Several fish species, like salmon, travel long distances between freshwater and saltwater habitats to spawn and lay eggs.



Mammals

Some mammals, such as wildebeests and zebras, undertake extensive migrations in search of grazing areas and water sources.

Insects

Certain insects, like the locust, migrate in large swarms to find food.

Why Do Animals Migrate?

Animals migrate for several critical reasons:

Food Availability

Some animals migrate to areas with more food during different seasons. This ensures they have enough to eat and survive.

Breeding Grounds

Many animals migrate to specific locations to find the best conditions for reproduction and raising their young.

Temperature and Climate

Migration allows animals to escape extreme temperatures or harsh weather conditions.

Daylight Hours

Some animals, especially birds, rely on daylight hours to regulate their migration patterns.

Survival

Migration is an incredible adaptation that helps animals survive and thrive in different environments.

The Amazing Journeys

Migration is one of nature's most incredible spectacles. It involves determination, instinct, and an innate sense of direction in animals. The journeys undertaken by migratory animals are both awe-inspiring and crucial to maintaining a balance in ecosystems.

So, the next time you spot birds flying in a V-formation across the sky or hear about animals embarking on long journeys, remember that they are following the call of migration—a fascinating and essential aspect of the animal kingdom.

1. What is migration?
 - A) The regular, seasonal movement of animals from one region to another.
 - B) The mating dance of birds.
 - C) The changing colors of leaves during fall.
 - D) The process of animals hibernating during winter.
2. Where does migration take place?
 - A) Only within the same country or region.
 - B) Only between different continents.

- C) Only during the fall season.
 - D) In various parts of the world, depending on the species.
3. When does migration usually happen?
- A) During the hot summer months.
 - B) During the colder months of winter.
 - C) During the fall and spring seasons.
 - D) During the warmer months of spring.
4. What do salmon fish do during migration?
- A) They fly from one continent to another.
 - B) They travel long distances between freshwater and saltwater habitats to spawn.
 - C) They migrate from Canada to Mexico.
 - D) They migrate in large swarms.
5. Why do animals migrate?
- A) To escape extreme temperatures.
 - B) To synchronize their reproductive cycles.
 - C) To find better food and weather conditions.
 - D) To stay in their cozy dens or burrows.
6. What animals undertake impressive migratory journeys from the Arctic to the Antarctic and back?
- A) Arctic Terns.
 - B) Monarch Butterflies.
 - C) Wildebeests.
 - D) Zebras.
7. When do many animals migrate to warmer regions?
- A) During the fall season.
 - B) During the winter season.
 - C) During the spring season.
 - D) During the summer season.
8. What do some animals do during migration to find the best conditions for reproduction and raising their young?
- A) They fly long distances between freshwater and saltwater habitats.
 - B) They travel in large swarms to find food.
 - C) They undertake impressive migratory journeys from the Arctic to the Antarctic and back.
 - D) They migrate to specific locations.
9. What does migration allow animals to escape?
- A) Extreme temperatures or harsh weather conditions.
 - B) Daylight hours.

- C) The mating dance of birds.
- D) The changing colors of leaves during fall.

10. Why is migration an incredible adaptation for animals?

- A) It helps them synchronize their reproductive cycles.
- B) It allows them to hibernate during winter.
- C) It helps them find better food and weather conditions.
- D) It helps them survive and thrive in different environments.

ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

1. A) The regular, seasonal movement of animals from one region to another.
 - The passage defines migration as the regular, seasonal movement of animals from one region to another.
2. D) In various parts of the world, depending on the species.
 - The passage explains that migration can occur in various parts of the world, depending on the species of animals.
3. C) During the fall and spring seasons.
 - The passage states that migration usually takes place during the fall and spring seasons.
4. B) They travel long distances between freshwater and saltwater habitats to spawn.
 - The passage explains that salmon fish travel long distances between freshwater and saltwater habitats to spawn and lay eggs.
5. C) To find better food and weather conditions.
 - The passage explains that animals migrate to areas with more food and better weather conditions during different seasons.
6. A) Arctic Terns.
 - The passage mentions that Arctic Terns undertake impressive migratory journeys from the Arctic to the Antarctic and back.
7. A) During the fall season.
 - The passage mentions that many animals migrate to warmer regions during the fall season.
8. D) They migrate to specific locations.
 - The passage explains that some animals migrate to specific locations to find the best conditions for reproduction and raising their young.
9. A) Extreme temperatures or harsh weather conditions.
 - The passage explains that migration allows animals to escape extreme temperatures or harsh weather conditions.
10. D) It helps them survive and thrive in different environments.
 - The passage explains that migration is an incredible adaptation that helps animals survive and thrive in different environments.