

Migration Game

Please use this checklist to confirm that all of the parts of this station are in this bag both when it is unpacked before the OSF Science Night AND when it is re-packed after your event.

- Table sign, laminated
- Explanation/ What to Do sheet, laminated
- 24 – instruction cards + Finish sign, laminated
- 1 – skein of yarn
- 40- clothespins in a Ziploc bag
- 1 – roll of flagging tape
- 6 – large foam dice
- 1 – clipboard with chart and pencil attached

You will need to set up the Passport Question with Summer Tanager at this station. It can be found in the PASSPORT bag.

What you will need to provide for this activity station:

- Tape to attach table sign and hang yarn around classroom or “playing area”
- Copies of the chart

MIGRATION GAME

Explanation/Background:

Each year in North America nearly 350 different species of birds migrate, or move from one place to another. Of these, 250 migrate to between North America and Central and South America. Migration is associated with the departure from and return to a particular breeding area. Most migrations result from seasonal changes that prompt birds and other animals (such as butterflies, bats, caribou, and whales) to move to areas where the food supply is more abundant, climates are warmer and more favorable for survival, and hours of sunlight are longer.

Migrating long distances requires a tremendous amount of energy. Before a major migratory trip, birds accumulate a reserve of fat to fuel their journey. They need food and clean water to nourish them along their way – they also need a clean environment. Alteration or loss of habitats along their migratory routes and breeding and wintering grounds pose serious challenges. Migratory bird populations face many other hazards such as collisions with skyscrapers, windows, radio and communication towers, and predators (such as cats). Exposures to pesticides, such as DDT, and diseases, such as West Nile Virus, have had devastating effects on many bird populations.

Adapted from Flying Wild's, The Great Migration Challenge.

What You Will Do:

While playing the part of birds, participants discover challenges faced by migrating birds.

What You Need:

- Yarn/rope
- Clothespins
- Game cards
- 6 dice
- 1 roll of flagging (brightly colored nylon ribbon)

What To Do:

Set-up:

1. Tie the yarn/rope up along a wide area.
2. Attach the game cards in numerical order to the yarn with the clothespins. Make sure to spread them out enough that there is room for participants to perform actions.
3. Place the dice at the “start” and the flagging at the appropriate card station.

Activity:

1. Have participants roll the die at the start of the game and then move the number of spots that they roll.
2. The participants are to read the card at each station and perform the action it requires. The card will tell how many spaces to move forward/backward or to roll the dice again.
3. If the bird “dies”, they may start over at the beginning.
4. Participants may play until they complete their migration route.

Text of Migration Game Stations

1. Watch out! Power lines ahead. Don't hit them! Crawl ahead 5 feet. Then move ahead to Station 3.
2. Good news! Food is plentiful. Many berries, seeds, grains, and insects are available in this overgrown field near a river. Smack your "beak" 10 times and move ahead 6 stations.
3. Bad news. You land by a polluted marsh and become sick from the food you eat. Sit down, hold your stomach and count to 30. Groan 10 times. Then move ahead 1 station.
4. Watch out for predators – it wants to eat you! Freeze, count to 40, and then sneak ahead 2 stations.
5. You escape capture by a predator, but slightly sprain your wing in the escape. Get it back in shape. Slowly swing your left arm around 10 times. Move ahead one station.
6. Scientists catch you for research. They put a metal band on your leg and set you free. Tie a piece of flagging around your ankle. Move ahead 3 stations.
7. You get tangled in fishing line and can't eat. You are weak from hunger. A wildlife rehabilitator cuts the line and feeds you. Hop on 1 leg in a circle, count to 40, then move ahead 4 stations.
8. You land at a school where students created a schoolyard habitat. There is a bird feeder; you eat seeds, fruit, insects, and nectar. Peck or sip 20 times. Roll the die, then move ahead that number.
9. It's raining, it's pouring, and you don't want to fly in this rainstorm. Count to 50 while you wait for the storm to stop, roll the die, then move ahead that number of stations.
10. You can't find last year's resting spot because a new shopping mall has been built there. Walk around in 3 wide circles searching for rest and food. You are still hungry, and only have strength to move ahead 1 station.
11. Whew! While flying near a large city, you almost collide with a jet. Go back 2 stations while you recover.
12. You arrive at a large lake, where there is plenty of clean water, food, and shelter. Rub your stomach 15 times and move ahead 5 stations.
13. You are able to fly a long distance in one day, because of good winds. Roll the die and move ahead that number of stations.
14. Bad storm! No flying today. BRRRR! You are cold and hungry. Shiver for 10 counts, hold your belly, and go back 1 station.

15. Strong winds from the wrong direction keep you from migrating. Roll the die and blow back that many stations.
16. A pet cat catches you and eats you. The game is over for you. SORRY! You died. Die dramatically...then go back to the beginning and mark the chart.
17. You just flew into a tall glass building in town. Sit down, hold your head, count to 35, and move ahead 2 stations.
18. You have just been shot with a BB gun. The game is over for you. SORRY! Go back to the beginning and mark the chart.
19. Good news!!! A good wind helps you fly. Move ahead 5 stations.
20. After flying for several days, you land in a wildlife refuge. Spend time resting and eating from the abundance of food. Gulp 10 times, take arrest, then move ahead 4 stations.
21. OOPS! An unexpected freeze causes food to become scarce. Go back 2 stations as you try to find more food.
22. Bad luck! You have just joined a large flock of birds that has been exposed to disease. You get sick and die. SORRY! Die dramatically...then go back to the beginning and mark the chart.
23. Uh-oh! You lost an important stopover spot when the wetlands were recently drained for a new building. Go back 1 station.
24. Spend five days resting and feed in another wildlife refuge. Count to 40. Because you are so strong, you can fly to the finish!