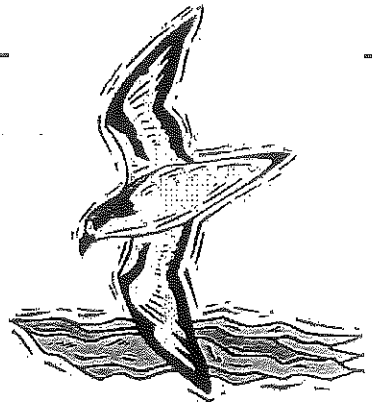
Name: _____

Animal Migration

by Kimberly M. Hutmacher

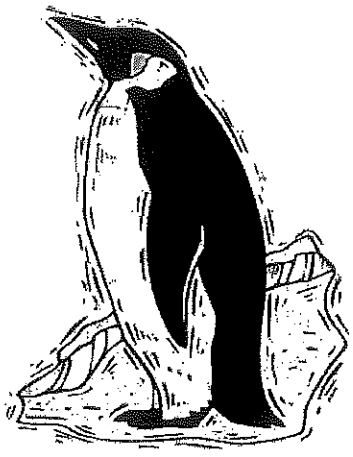


Have you ever noticed that we only see certain animals in certain seasons? Many animals move from one area to another at different times during the year. This movement is called migration.

Animals migrate for different reasons. Some, like the manatee and the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird, migrate to stay warm in the winter.

Some animals migrate for food, water, and protection. Caribou move south each winter to evergreen forests. The forests protect them from the cold winds and provide a better food supply.

Other animals, like the Emperor Penguin, migrate for their children. These penguins choose the coldest time of year and the coldest place on the planet- Antarctica- to raise their young. They migrate inland, away from the sea, so they are far away from predators when their eggs hatch.



These journeys are often thousands of miles. It's amazing that so many animals are able to find their way back to the very same places in the world year after year.

Loggerhead Turtles travel thousands of miles to lay their eggs on the very same beach where they were hatched themselves.

Monarch butterflies often end up migrating thousands of miles to the very same tree that their ancestors roosted in generations before.

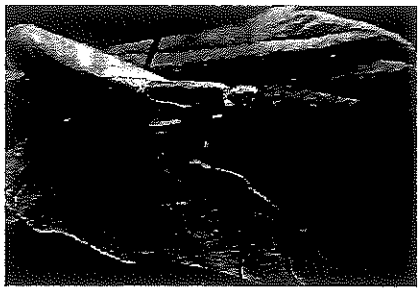
California Gray Whales have the longest migration journey of any mammal. They travel 10,000-14,000 miles round trip each year.

We know the many reasons why animals migrate, but no one really knows how they find their way. They do not have a map, compass or GPS to guide them. Maybe you will become the famous scientist that solves the mystery of animal migration.

The praying mantis takes things a step further. While its green to brown color helps it blend in with vegetation, the mantis also mimics the shape of a stem or leaf. The mantis uses these camouflage methods both to hide from predators like birds, frogs, snakes, spiders and bats, and to await prey such as insects (including other mantises!), spiders, hummingbirds, and small frogs and mice.

Just as important as color camouflage and mimicry is pattern camouflage. Tiger stripes and leopard and jaguar spots are all patterns which help these cats hide among the plants and shadows when they search for prey.

In nature, hide-and-seek is a game of life and death. Pattern and color camouflage, and mimicry, can give predators and prey a survival advantage. Can you think of any other animals that have camouflage?



This praying mantis' body mimics its environment. It looks much like a leaf or twig. This type of blending is called mimicry.

A tiger has vertical stripes that help to hide it among tall grass. This is pattern camouflage.

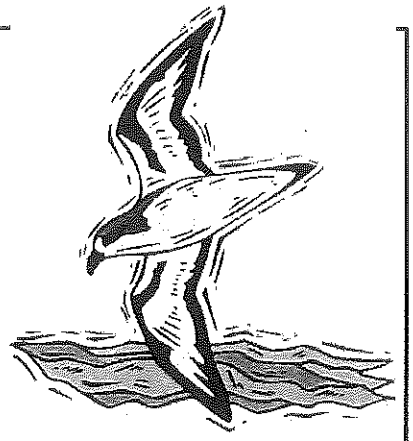
About the Author

Guy Belleranti is an author of fiction, poetry, articles, puzzles, and humor for children and adults. He also works as a docent at the Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, Arizona. The information in this article comes from his experiences teaching children about the wild animals at the zoo.

Name: _____

Animal Migration

by Kimberly M. Hutmacher



1. What is migration?
   - **a.** animals sleeping through the winter
   - **b.** animals preparing to hatch eggs
   - **c.** animals traveling long distances
   - **d.** animals getting lost

2. Complete the table with information from the article.

Species	Reason for Migrating
Ruby-Throated Hummingbird	
	Protection from cold winds and to find more food
Emperor Penguin	

3. Which animals hold the record for the longest migration? _____

4. Where do Emperor Penguins go when they migrate?
   - **a.** inland, near the North Pole
   - **b.** towards the sea, near the North Pole
   - **c.** inland, near the South Pole
   - **d.** towards the sea, near the South Pole

5. What information about animal migration is not known?
   - **a.** where the animals migrate to
   - **b.** why animals migrate
   - **c.** which species of animals migrate
   - **d.** how animals find their way when they migrate