

Name _____

On the Move

Learn facts about animal migration.

Read the passage and answer the questions.

Migration is the movement of animals in large numbers from one place to another. For some animals this means traveling away from and back to where they were born. This can last a lifetime, like for salmon, or it can be recurring, like for many birds.

Seasonal migration occurs with many types of birds, insects, and marine mammals. Many birds and some bats from cold climates migrate to warmer areas for the winter. Large herbivores, like elk and moose, that live in warm regions have different ranges for summer and winter. Other animals migrate seasonally to follow water.

Sea turtles, seals and many sea birds migrate to land to have their young. In fact, many animals migrate for mating and breeding. Chinook salmon are born in rivers in the Northwestern U.S., then as adults they swim to the ocean. Later in life they swim upstream all the way back to the exact same place they were born to lay eggs.

Baleen whales migrate for both food and breeding. They travel north during the summer to find food in the colder water. Baby whales do not have enough blubber to keep them warm in the cold northern waters, so the whales swim south in the winter to give birth.

1. Define migration. _____

2. What is one reason animals migrate? _____

3. Describe the migration pattern of Chinook Salmon. _____

4. Name an animal that migrates to have their young. _____
5. Why do Baleen whales swim south in the winter? _____
