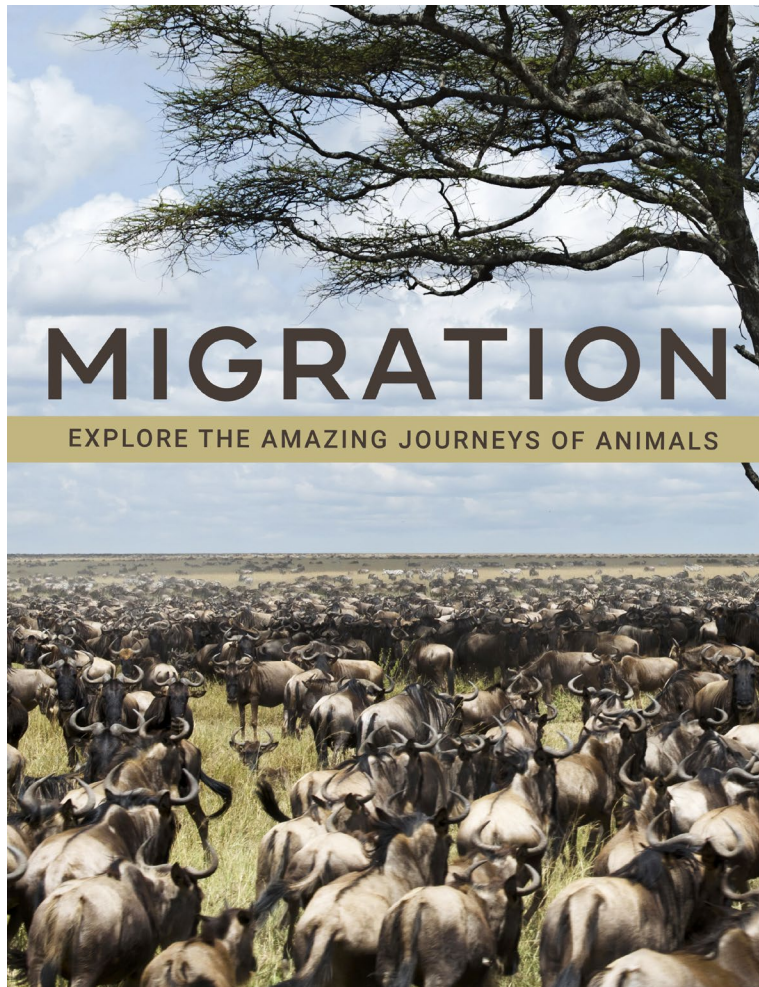




MIGRATION

EXPLORE THE AMAZING JOURNEYS OF ANIMALS



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HOW TO USE

One of the best things about using a unit study is that you can use it however you choose with a wide range of ages. For example, in this unit, there are eighteen lessons. The student can read the lesson text (or a parent/teacher can read it aloud) and use the notebooking page that is included for written narration, using the questions as writing prompts. This often works better for students who struggle with reading comprehension questions. Alternatively, you can ask the questions orally if that suits your student's age and learning style best.

There are additional research questions that older students can use as a starting point for learning more or even for writing their own paper about the animals studied.

Suggested vocabulary words are bolded. You can have your student look up the definitions and use them to create a notebook if you choose. Students can also find suggested definitions for the words in the glossary at the end of the unit.

At the end of the unit, you will also find websites and a suggested book list for fun ways you can build on the information in this study.

You will find answer keys for all reading comprehension questions at the end of the resource. Answer keys for the additional research are not included as much of these answers will vary based on the sources used for research.

We've also created two sample schedules for you to make planning your unit study a breeze!

SAMPLE 9-WEEK SCHEDULE (TWO ANIMALS PER WEEK)

DAY ONE: Read text and answer questions on notebooking page for the first animal of the week.

DAY TWO: Use the written narration page to summarize what you learned the previous day in your own words. You can use the notebooking page you answered questions on to help jog your memory. Using the lesson, an encyclopedia, or another resource with a parent's permission, draw a picture of the animal that you learned about.

DAY THREE: Read text and answer questions on notebooking page for the second animal of the week.

DAY FOUR: Use the written narration page to summarize what you learned the previous day in your own words. You can use the notebooking page you answered questions on to help jog your memory. Using the lesson, an encyclopedia, or another resource with a parent's permission, draw a picture of the animal that you learned about.

SAMPLE 18-WEEK SCHEDULE (ONE ANIMAL PER WEEK)

DAY ONE: Read text and answer questions on the notebooking page.

DAY TWO: Use the written narration page to summarize what you learned the previous day in your own words. You can use the notebooking page you answered questions on to help jog your memory.

DAY THREE: Using the lesson, an encyclopedia, or another resource with a parent's permission, draw a picture of the animal that you learned about.

DAY FOUR: With a parent's permission, watch some videos on the animal that you learned about. You could also get some books from the library to Dig Deeper - subtitle {Insert Animal Name}.

INTRODUCTION

You've probably read in science that some animals **migrate**, move from one place to another. But did you know there are different types of animal migrations? There are so many different ways animals migrate that scientists don't all agree on exactly what defines a migration. Is it only a long journey, or does a short journey count? Is it something that happens every year or just occasionally?

In this unit, we're going to look at 18 animals that migrate over various distances. We'll look at mammals, birds, reptiles, fish, and insects. We'll follow the journeys of animals that travel across land, in the water, and through the air.

IF YOU'RE READY, GRAB YOUR TRAVELING SHOES, AND LET'S GET STARTED!

COMMON WILDEBEEST

Connochaetes taurinus



There are several kinds of wildebeests, or gnu, that are members of the antelope family. Not all wildebeests migrate, but the common wildebeest (or blue wildebeest as it is sometimes called) is famous for one of the most impressive animal migrations in the world.

More than one million of these large brown and gray horned animals live in the Serengeti Plains and the **savanna** in northwestern Tanzania. They feed on the short grasses there during the wet season from November to May. Then in late May or early June, they begin their move to find more grass. Some travel west and then north to Kenya while others simply travel north, moving between the Serengeti National Park to the Masai Mara National Reserve. This migration is considered one of the Seven Natural Wonders of Africa.

The journey is not an easy one. Rains flood the rivers, which all too often are home to hungry crocodiles. Gazelles, zebras, and other animals often join the migration, which adds protection in number but also draws more predators such as lions, hyenas, cheetahs, and leopards. However, wildebeests are very capable of fighting back and can even harm lions.

Wildebeests also breed along the way. The calves will be born about eight months later in February. Most members of the antelope family hide their calves for days or weeks until they are large enough and strong enough to travel, but the wildebeest calves can walk and travel with their mothers very soon after birth. This is especially important as they will have to be ready to migrate in just a few short months when May arrives again.

LET'S REVIEW: COMMON WILDEBEAST

1. Why do common wildebeests move each year?

2. Which two parks or reserves do the wildebeests primarily live in?

3. What are some of the other animals that join the wildebeest migration?

4. What are some of the predators that threaten the wildebeests?

5. How long after breeding are the wildebeest calves born?

DIGGING DEEPER: COMMON WILDEBEAST

Using an encyclopedia, or another resource with a parent's permission, can you find out the following information?

What are some of the other types of wildebeest? Where do they live?

How large is an average wildebeest?
How much does it weigh?

You learned that the wildebeest migration is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of Africa. What are the other six?

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal black lines across its entire width, typical of notebook or legal stationery. The background is a solid off-white color, and there are no margins, text, or other markings present.

PICTURE IT

Using the lesson, an encyclopedia, or another resource with a parent's permission, draw a picture of a common wildebeest.

