

Name: _____

Migration

In the animal kingdom, many animals make seasonal trips for many reasons. Some do to avoid harsh weather and have an abundant food supply all year round. Some do to mate and give birth to their young. Despite what motivates these animals to pack up and go, we have a name for this interesting animal behavior. We call it "migration."

You may know that Atlantic salmon swim upstream to their birthplace once a year so they can lay eggs. You may know that puffins return to the land for just a couple of months a year so they can breed. You may know that reindeer move constantly so they can find enough vegetation to fill their stomachs. You may also know that leatherback sea turtles go ashore every year to dig holes on sandy beaches and lay eggs there.

Of all the migrating animals, the Arctic tern is sure to be the most famous. Arctic terns spend their summer months in the Arctic, an area surrounding the North Pole. In late summer, they have to leave their cozy summer residence. The Arctic will soon become very cold and unpleasant. They head south and fly all the way to Antarctica, the continent where the South Pole is! Since Antarctica is in the Southern Hemisphere, the seasons are the exact opposite from those in the Northern Hemisphere. Winter in the Arctic is summer in Antarctica. Arctic terns spend a few months in Antarctica and make their way back to the Arctic when the winter is about to visit Antarctica. Amazingly, Arctic terns accomplish a remarkable roundtrip journey of over 40,000 miles every year!

It is still a mystery how migrating animals know when and where to go. Scientists believe that some may use the sun and stars as their navigation tools. Others believe the animals can detect and follow the invisible magnetic lines across the surface of the Earth.

Migration

Questions

- _____ 1. Which of the following is a reason for animals to migrate?
- A. food supply
 - B. warm weather
 - C. breeding purposes
 - D. all of the above
- _____ 2. Arctic terns fly from the Arctic to Antarctica in December.
- A. false
 - B. true