

MIGRATION – Introductory Lesson

What is Migration? Definition

- Movement from one part of something to another part
- Movement of living things around the world

Insects, Birds, Eels, Fish, Animals and Humans all migrate. Records Held by Animal Migrants – present this chart to spark children’s thoughts

Smallest migrant	1–2 mm long	Zooplankton (crab larvae, copepods, etc.)
Largest migrant	24–27 m long	Blue whale
Longest mammal migration	Up to 8,500 km each way	Humpback whale
Longest insect migrations	Over 5,000 km	Monarch Butterfly Globe Skimmer Dragon Fly
Longest recorded round-trip	80,000 km	Arctic tern
Highest migration altitude	9,000m above sea level	Bar-headed goose
Migrant most assisted by humans	Everywhere	Silk worm

How do these creatures know their migration route?

Ask the class to work in pairs or small teams to discuss and list as many ideas of things that could help them navigate before starting work on resource sheets for Birds, Fish and Eels, Mammals.

Round up

Display as many different ideas as possible. Magnetic North, Sun, Moon, Stars, Wind and Weather, following geographic features like mountains and seas, smell, sounds, very good memory.

Pose the thought that other creatures have senses that we don’t use?

To follow

Prepare the children for the follow up sessions using the Pupil Worksheets about migrating insects, birds, fish and mammals including humans.