



Herts and
Middlesex



**wildlife
watch**

Wildfowl Migration Game

Background information

Many birds migrate between different countries every year. They do this in order to breed in the summer and to find food in the winter. Birds may fly thousands of miles to reach these places which means they may face many hazards along the way. However as migration is vital to their survival, these birds must take these risks.

Here in the UK we have two mass movements of migratory birds. In spring our 'summer migrants' move north from Africa to breed here in the UK and Europe. In the autumn they return to Africa when their food supply here (usually insects) starts to run out. At the same time our 'winter migrants' arrive. They move south into the UK and Europe from more northerly places such as Russia, Iceland and Scandinavia to spend the winter here when food there becomes hard to find. They will stay here until the spring when they return north to breed, just as our summer migrants begin to arrive again!

Activity objectives

This game aims to teach children about bird migration, in particular the winter migration of ducks and geese to the UK. It should get children thinking about the hazards that birds face on their journeys and how we can help them on their way.

What you will need

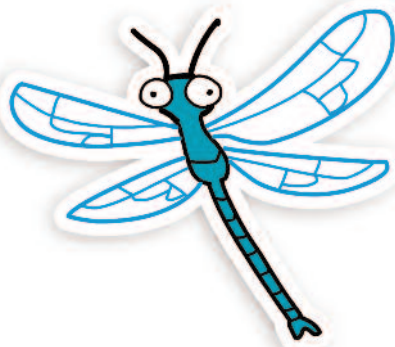
1. The class or large group.
2. A large area in which to play – a hall or playing field.
3. 20 x A4 cards numbered 1-20 – to form 'stepping stones'.
4. Printed 'Game Cards' (2g to 2k) and 'Starter Cards' (2f).
5. Printed 'Team Bird' cards (2a to 2e).

****** Make sure all the cards are laminated, especially if you are using them outside!

Now turn over...



and play the game!





Herts and
Middlesex



**wildlife
watch**

Wildfowl Migration Game

How to play

1. Arrange the numbered 'stepping stones' on the ground, evenly spaced out from one end of the hall or field to the other.
2. Shuffle the Game Cards and Starter Cards but keep the two packs separate!
3. Split the class/group into 5 teams (or less) and assign them a bird using the 'Team Bird' cards. This is now their 'flock'.
4. Explain that these birds migrate from their breeding grounds (noted on the 'Team Bird' cards) to the UK in the autumn and why.
5. Ask the flocks to line up at the start of the stepping stones ready to begin their migration.
6. To start the game, each flock in turn should take a Starter Card and follow the instruction. If they are unable to start their migration they should wait until their next turn and try again. Once a flock has started, use the Game Cards to instruct their next move.

****** Ask the flocks to remember all the problems they face as well as the things that help them along the way.

7. Each flock in turn then takes a Game Card and follows the instruction – moving forward or back according to the conditions they face.

****** The flocks will move along the migration route at different rates.

****** Some of the flock might not make it to the end due to predators or hunters!

8. Once all the flocks have reached their destination bring the class back together to discuss their journeys:

- Who arrived first/last? Why?
- Did you all make it to your wintering grounds? If not, why not?
- What problems did you face?
- What helped you on your way?
- What can we do to help birds that migrate?



Information for Teachers

National Curriculum Links – Science

Y1 POS Identify and name a variety of common animals (use the local environment to answer questions about animals and their habitats).

Y2 POS Describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of animals, (introduce the idea of 'habitat' and 'microhabitat' and observe how living things depend upon each other). Describe the basic needs of animals for survival.

Y3 POS Animals need the right amount of nutrition, they cannot make their own food, they get nutrition from what they eat.

Y6 POS Identify how animals are adapted to suit their environment in different ways.

