

Massive Migration



Goal:

Students will map and calculate the migration routes of Arctic species to learn about animals that spend part of their lives in the Arctic and how they are connected to other parts of the world for food and shelter.

Objectives

- Measure the distances traveled by migratory Arctic bird species.
- Calculate percent difference between migratory bird routes.
- Identify Arctic species that spend parts of the year in their own local areas.
- Explain how migratory Arctic species meet their habitat requirements in various regimes.

Read Background information

Assignment

Create a presentation on how migratory Arctic species meet their habitat requirements in various regimes. Measure, calculate and map your chosen bird's migration route and discuss what they need to survive during migration and where they migrate to.

You may work with one other person. You will be required to **give a presentation** on your bird and a **written report**.

Assignment

- **Choose a migratory bird species** from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, <http://arctic.fws.gov/birdpost.htm>.
- Use the Cornell Lab of Ornithology website, <http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/search.aspx>, to discover more about the migratory bird you have chosen.
- All questions and answers should be recorded in the science notebook.

Assignment

- Sketch your bird utilizing best practices for a scientific drawing and answer these questions about their bird:
 - What does their species eat?
 - What are its habitat requirements for food, water, and shelter?
 - What are its habitat requirements for raising young?

Assignment

- How far do they migrate?
- Predict challenges they face during migration?
- What challenges they would face if they had to migrate to find warmer weather, food, shelter, and water...
- Compare the distances of different species migration routes.

Assignment

- Gather distances from four other groups.
- Create a chart and or bar graph in the science notebook that denotes the migratory bird species and the distance flown during its migration. Be sure students are including all applicable labels.
 - Which species has the longest migration?
 - The shortest?
 - Why do you think birds would travel on these long journeys?
 - What makes the journey worthwhile for them? Why not just stay?