

Migration Game

NEEDS

- volunteer

at the beginning of path to introduce people what it is about and what they have to do.

at the end of the path to receive game cards and for short discussion

- playing area: marked 'migration path'
- laminated cards
- 6sided dice

People, as migrating birds, move through a game-board riddled with challenges and different situations.

Use two routes so more groups can play if it gets busy. The board should be large enough for about 5 people to stand together in each square.

ACTIVITY:

1. Welcome to the Bird Migration Game! - the game about adventure and challenge.

Ask the group if they know what migration is. If not, explain that it is a behavioral adaptation that allows birds to survive when food and other resources are hard to find during the winter. It is kind of like bird vacation. When the weather turns colder and food is harder to find, birds fly (migrate) to warmer areas that have more food. After a few weeks or months, they head back home where they nest and lay eggs (breed). Some birds travel up to 10,000 miles (one way!) during their migration! During such a long flight, birds encounter many different adventures along the way from crazy weather to overly playful housecats. Lets see what exciting things happen during YOUR migration!

2. Explain the rules:

- Each team rolls a die to move forward. Once on a square, someone from the group will choose a card from the pile.
- The goal of the game is to migrate all the way to the end.

3. Continue shuffling and dispensing cards until every team has either not made it or crossed the finish line.

CONCLUSION:

Congratulate them on their journey. Discuss what affected their migration. What things helped them along the way? What made it challenging?

Text for migration cards:

You have found a great wind that pushes you along. Move ahead 2 spaces.

You run into a large patch of fog and get turned around. Move backwards 1 space.

You follow a mountain chain and hit some rough wind. Your wings get incredibly tired. Lose a turn to stop and rest.

Clear skies and warm temperatures make for perfect flying weather. Move ahead 2 spaces.

A huge coastal storm blows you out to sea. Your whole flock does not make it to their migration spot. Game Over.

Clear skies and warm temperatures make for perfect flying weather. Move ahead 1 space.

You leave just ahead of a high-pressure system and have a few great days of travel weather. Move ahead 2 spaces.

You fly through a strong storm and lose your way. Move backwards 2 spaces.

You find many bird feeders and bird baths to stop and rest at along the way. Move ahead 1 space.

Heavy rain makes flight and visibility impossible. Move backwards 1 space.

Flying along a mountain chain, you find some great updrafts that keep wings from getting tired. Move ahead 1 space.

A strong wind is pushing against you and you make very little progress. Stay where you are.

A cat pounces on you during the night and injures your wing. Move back 2 spaces.

A strong wind pushes you hard into a cell phone tower. Move back 1 space.

You have had a good rest in a sturdy tree. Move ahead 1 space.

Your favorite resting forest has been replaced by a shopping center. Move back 2 spaces.

A quick rest and snack at a beautiful wetland leaves you feeling refreshed. Move ahead 1 space.

The bugs you just ate were covered in pesticides (bug killing chemicals). Your tummy hurts. Stay where you are.

A quick dip into the cool waters of a wetland leaves you feeling rejuvenated. Move ahead 1 space.

You find a birdfeeder filled with delicious treats. Move ahead 2 spaces.

You are attacked by a hawk, but finally make the escape. Lose a turn to stop and rest.

You became victim of the hungry hawk. Game over.

Many seeds, berries and insects are available in a yard with a wildlife garden. Move ahead 2 spaces.

You are almost caught by a cat and sprain your wing in the escape. Move back 2 spaces.

You land by a polluted pond and become sick from drinking the water. Move back 2 spaces.

You are catching insects near a road when you are almost hit by a car! You are not badly hurt, but you are sore and dazed. Lose a turn to stop and rest.

While migrating at night, you become confused by bright lights in a big city. Move back 1 space.

You get covered with oil from a spill and you can't fly or keep warm. Game over.

You just collided with a window on a house. Move back 1 space.

You land in a wildlife refuge. Move forward. 1 space.

You got shot. Game over.

Beautiful, warm weather and a good tail wind help you fly.

