Name_____

Migration

Why do animals migrate or move? Animals that migrate do so to find a place that will offer better living conditions. Not all animals migrate, but those that do are attempting to help the survival of their species. There are a variety of reasons why animals leave. Some migrate to avoid weather changes. Some leave because of the food supply. Unlike humans who migrate because of relationships, job changes, or other social reasons, animals migrate to survive.

There are different types of migration, but one of the most interesting is the seasonal migration. In seasonal migrations, animals move twice a year. These movements usually occur due to changes in the seasons or in the weather. For example, some birds migrate away from colder regions to warmer weather and then come back to a place once the colder weather has passed.

How do animals know when it is time to migrate? Some animals do not leave an area until the environment changes and becomes a place that is not favorable for them to live. Other animals seem to have inborn systems that tell them when it is time to leave.

Animals that migrate use many different ways to successfully reach their destinations. Scientists believe animals' senses play a huge role in helping them find their way. For example, salmon that migrate are thought to recognize specific odors that help them. Others are thought to use even the sun, moon, and stars to help guide them on their journeys. Although the animals use different methods to migrate, one thing is the same: migration remains an important and vital journey for the survival of many of Earth's most amazing species.

Text Questions

1. Why do animals most likely migrate?
   a. to find more food
   b. to find shelter
   c. to find similar species
   d. to find better living conditions

2. Which paragraph best explains how animals know when to migrate?
   a. first paragraph
   b. second paragraph
   c. third paragraph
   d. fourth paragraph

3. How is animal migration different from the migration of some humans?
   a. Humans might migrate for social reasons rather than survival.
   b. Humans migrate based on a twelve-month calendar.
   c. Humans wait for certain species of animals to migrate before leaving a certain area.
   d. Humans do not migrate.

4. Which of the following statements is an opinion?
   a. Animal migration is a fascinating subject that scientists still need to learn about to fully understand.
   b. Some animals do not migrate until environmental changes occur.
   c. Not all animals migrate.
   d. Some animals have inborn systems that tell them when to migrate.

5. What inference can be made about migration?
   a. Seasonal migration is not the only type of migration.
   b. Humans could migrate using the same inborn systems as other animals.
   c. Migration is different for all animals.
   d. At some point in history, all animals migrated.

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