



MIGRATION SCAVENGER HUNT

HOMESCHOOL DAY 3/23/23

Open-Ended Questions

MIGRATION OF SEASON/CLIMATE

ZooNorth

Caribbean Flamingo

Q: Flamingos are generally non-migratory birds, however, when they sense a change in climate and water levels in breeding areas, they will migrate to a more favorable location. If you were a flamingo, where would you lay your egg in the Zoo habitat? What materials would you use for your nest? What do you notice the flamingos use for their nesting materials?

Red-Crowned Crane

Q: The migratory population of red-crowned cranes breeds and overwinters in eastern Asia, spending the winter there for a warmer climate. These cranes require large wetlands for breeding and for diet. What are some examples of their diet and nutritional needs?

Monarch Butterfly

Q: Monarch butterflies migrate between 1,200 and 2,800 miles from the northeast United States and southeast Canada to the mountain forests in central Mexico. Have you seen butterflies in gardens? What do you notice when butterflies are on the flowers? How do butterflies help plants grow?

Wilds of Africa

Hippopotamus

Q: Hippos move upstream over long distances during the dry season as the river dries up. Hippos are not able to swim nor float. Instead, they move around by pushing off from the bottom of the river or simply walking along the riverbed in a slow-motion gallop. As you look in the habitat, where do you notice the hippos spending most of their time? How do they move through the water?

Klipspringer

Q: Klipspringers inhabit places with rocky terrain and sparse vegetation. They migrate to lowlands at times of food scarcity and prefer to eat grasses, young plants, fruits, and flowers. Klipspringers have a unique way of traveling across the rocky hills. How do they climb and jump on slippery rocks with ease?

Giants of the Savanna

Hartmann's Mountain Zebra

Q: Hartmann's Mountain zebras prefer living on mountainous slopes and plateaus during the hot summer months and migrate to lower savannah landscapes during the cold winter months. In the Zoo habitat, where do you see the zebras spending most of their time? What do you notice them doing in that area?

MIGRATION OF FOOD RESOURCES

ZooNorth

De Brazza's Monkey

Q: De Brazza's monkeys prefer to live in high treetops of dense forest and vegetation. They are constantly migrating in search of food such as plants and fruit, but will eat insects, seeds, and other food sources when primary foods are scarce. Since they constantly travel for their next meal, De Brazza's have a unique way to store additional food on them while climbing through trees. What is the special adaptation they have to carry food? How does this compare to how we might carry food for a picnic?

Galapagos Tortoise

Q: Galapagos tortoises begin their migration in the humid highlands of Santa Cruz Island where they load up on grass and perennial plants. Once the rainy season starts in December, they migrate to the lowlands where herbs and shrubs thrive. When the rain stops, the vegetation dries up and they return to the highlands. Do you see areas where zoologists hide food in the Galapagos tortoise habitat? Why do you think the food is in that area for the tortoises?

Maned Wolf

Q: The maned wolf is a large canine of South America. It is found in Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, and Paraguay. Maned wolves are omnivorous and eat seasonally abundant fruits and small mammals such as rodents, rabbits, and insects. What physical qualities help them find food in the tall grasses of their South America habitat?

Wilds of Africa

Western Lowland Gorilla

Q: Western lowland gorillas primarily live in rainforests and swamp forests of Central Africa. Gorilla troops migrate 2.5 miles through dense forest and eat 40 pounds of food a day. They never completely strip vegetation from a single area since the rapid regrowth of vegetation allows them to stay for extended periods of time. Visually explore the gorilla habitat at the zoo. In what areas do the gorillas prefer to rest? What foods do you see in the habitat that gorillas have in their diet?

Saddle-Billed Stork

Q: Saddle-billed storks live in vast open spaces along wetlands or swamps and bodies of water. This provides easy access to their primary source of nutrition, fish. What will happen if their water resources diminish?

Giants of the Savanna

African Savanna Elephant

Q: Elephants require a tremendous amount of food to maintain their massive bodies. In a single day, one elephant may eat 300 pounds of vegetation, and drink 30 to 50 gallons of water. In order to find this much food and water, elephants in Sub-Saharan Africa are almost always on the move. Observe our elephants. What are they eating and where are they finding their food?

Greater Kudu

Q: Although kudu do not participate in an annual migration, they may travel large distances over open plains in search of water in times of drought. They will occasionally venture onto plains only if there is a large abundance of bushes, but they normally avoid such open areas. Why would kudus be on high alert in open areas? How could you tell they are on high alert? How does this help them to survive?

MIGRATION OF REPRODUCTIVE OPPORTUNITIES

ZooNorth

Sumatran Tiger

Q: Sumatran tigers are solitary except during times of courtship when males travel long distances to find a female. Females will breed with any male tiger that lives in a territory that overlaps hers. What are different ways that tigers communicate to find each other in the dense forests? What do you notice the tiger doing in its habitat?

Houston Toad

Q: The Houston toad lives primarily on land. Male toads will migrate from pond to pond making calls near shallow water or from small mounds of soil/ grass surrounded by water. A male's call is a high shrill that lasts from 20-30 seconds to let females know he is nearby to breed. When looking at their habitat, what are some key factors that you see these toads need to have to keep their offspring (tadpoles) safe and healthy? What would your shrill call be? Could you shrill up to 30 seconds?

Wilds of Africa

Cheetah

Q: In the wild, female cheetahs travel far and wide staking potential mates. Interested females urinate on bushes, trees, and rocks around their territories. Once a male cheetah picks up the scent, he calls out to the female with a series of yelps. The female responds with yelps until they find each other. What forms of communication do we use to talk with one another?

Nile Crocodile

Q: During the mating season, males attract females by bellowing, slapping their snouts in the water, blowing water out of their noses, and making a variety of other noises. Once females are ready to nest, they migrate through rivers to the site where they were born. Look at the habitat of the Nile crocodiles. If you were a crocodile, where do you think would be a safe place to make your nest? What materials would you use for the nest?

Chimpanzee

Q: Home for a chimpanzee is a community of chimps made up of family groups. Upon reaching maturity, females migrate to neighboring communities to have offspring while males stay in their natal (birth) group. In order for females to join a new group, they must communicate and bond with the other chimps. What are two ways that chimps greet females and other relatives? How do chimps express their feelings to one another? How do chimps strengthen bonds within the group?