



JENNIFER COSSINS



AMAZING ANIMAL JOURNEYS



TEACHERS RESOURCES

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Teachers Resources by Robyn Sheahan-Bright

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INTRODUCTION

This beautifully illustrated title is chock-full of fascinating animal facts from bestselling, CBCA award-winning Tasmanian children's author/illustrator, Jennifer Cossins, that focuses on 25 animal species from Australia and around the world with intriguing migration journeys.

Did you know that Arctic terns have the longest migration of all birds, flying from the Arctic to Antarctica and back each year? Or that the Wildebeest migration in East Africa is so vast it can be seen from outer space?

Come along on these amazing animal journeys! Perfect for readers aged 7+ who delight in learning about the animal kingdom and the world around them.

THEMES & CURRICULUM TOPICS

Several themes are covered in this book which might be related to the Australian Curriculum, including:

SCIENCE

This is relevant to the following Curriculum Area:
<<https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/science/>>

MIGRATION OF ANIMALS

Discussion Point: What are the main reasons that animals migrate?

Discussion Point: Study the migratory patterns of some of the animals listed in this book. There are some fascinating details regarding their incredible instincts and feats of endurance, for example, the Sockeye salmon which journeys from the freshwater lakes of the western coast of North America to the North Pacific Ocean; or the New Zealand longfin eel which transforms from a freshwater to a saltwater eel when it embarks on an epic journey thousands of kilometres north until it reaches tropical Pacific waters.

Discussion Point: Some animals do not live to complete their journeys since their offspring continue the journey after they die. What was the most unusual migration pattern you observed in this book?

Activity: Create a poster with a slogan aimed at educating the public about the wonder of animal migration.

THE LIFE CYCLES AND HABITATS OF ANIMALS

Activity: Investigate the lifecycles of some of the many migratory animals in this book.

Activity: Investigate different migratory animal species. [See **Bibliography.**]

Activity: Make an alphabetical list of any migratory animals not included in this text and research them further, for example, Topi. [See **Worksheet 2.**]

Activity: Study other books about migratory animals and compare them to this one. [See **Bibliography.**]

Discussion Point: Which of the animals in this book are endangered?

Discussion Point: What do the animals in this book eat? What was the most unusual food source you discovered in this book? There are three types of animal defined by their feeding sources: herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. Research these different types of animals and their food sources.

Discussion Point: Study the **survival skills** that animals employ in order to journey such long distances, which often involves surviving harsh conditions, for example, some build up reserves of fat before they depart on incredible distances at amazing speeds. The bar-tailed godwit takes this skill a step further: 'These clever birds can also shrink some of their organs – the ones not needed for flying, like their stomach – to make room for fat and muscle.' (p 33) Research these and other skills some of the animals in this book have. [See **Bibliography.**] What animal's survival skills did you find particularly interesting?

Activity: Some migratory animals use **camouflage** as a survival skill, eg. There are four main types of camouflage: Concealing Colouration, Disruptive Colouration, Disguise and Mimicry.'

[See 'Animal Camouflage: Pictures and Information for Kids', *K5 Computer Lab*, <<https://oakdome.com/k5/lesson-plans/powerpoint/animal-camouflage-pictures-and-information.php>>] 'Despite the Zebra's stripes being so distinctive it is actually a form of camouflage known as 'motion dazzle' which helps them to deceive predators.' [See 'Animal Camouflage the Art of Survival', *Safaris Africana*, <<https://safarisaficana.com/animal-camouflage/>>]

Research this topic and how some migratory animals employ camouflage.

Discussion Point: Encourage students to ask questions about animals, and then to research the answers, for example: Which animals transform themselves during their journeys? Which of them flies the longest distances? Which of them travels alone? Which is the lightest in weight despite the vast journey they undertake?

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (HASS)

Several themes and topics are relevant to the following Curriculum Area:

<<https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/humanities-and-social-sciences/hass/>>

Investigate the following sub-topics using skills developed in this Curriculum Area relating to **INQUIRY AND SKILLS** and **KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING**:

1. *Develop Methodology and Research Using Primary and Secondary Sources;*
2. *Synthesise and Evaluate Evidence;*
3. *Present Evidence;*
4. *Develop Alternatives.*

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

Activity: Climate change is discussed by the author at the end of this book. She points out the impacts that human beings have had on animals and how these impacts are depleting animal numbers, endangering animal species, and destroying their habitats. The ripple effect of this is that other animals are therefore affected as well. This topic is debated between those who believe that it will have an enormously detrimental impact on biodiversity and others who are sceptics or climate change deniers.

Research this debate in relation to one of the animals in this book, and write an essay outlining your findings. See, for example, Jeannie Baker's *Circle* (2016) which outlines the incredible journey taken by the godwit and how environmental changes are threatening its various habitats.

Activity: Research the decline or endangered status of any species from the book (eg Andean flamingo or saiga antelope) and what scientists say about the impact climate change or environmental pollution is having on that animal.

Discussion Point: International cooperation is needed to protect the habitats of migratory animals since they move between different countries. What are governments doing to combat climate change and environmental pollution? [See **Bibliography**.]

PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE AND MORAL ISSUES

Activity: Some animals are considered **dangerous**, for example, sharks, and predatory birds such as eagles, falcons and hawks. Research this topic further. Should we kill or remove such animals from their habitat simply because they pose a threat to human life?

Discussion Point: Some animals are **hunted** for the precious commodities that they produce, eg. saiga antelope for its horns. Research the trade in animal products and how government authorities have dealt or are dealing with it.

VALUES

Discussion Point: Discuss the key values conveyed in this text.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERACY

This is relevant to the following Curriculum Area:

<<https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/english/>>

The text of this book might be studied in relation to the following aspects:

Activity: The entries on each animal are written in third person, as an expository text. Invite students to create an Alphabet of Other Migratory Animals. Have each student make a short list of several animals not included in this book. Then invite them to write a short expository text (fact) about any of the animals. There are different types of expository writing eg. descriptive, sequential, or cause/effect. [See **Bibliography** for examples of such texts.] [See also **Visual Literacy** exercise below.] [See also **Worksheet 2**. below.]

Activity: Test your students' comprehension by asking them questions about the written text. [See also **Worksheet 4**.]

Activity: Read poems about migratory animals. Then encourage students to write in a similar style about another animal.

Activity: Invite students to write an acrostic poem using the letters in 'Bogong moth'. [See **Bibliography**.]

Activity: Write a lyrical poem about an animal using models written by published poets to encourage students' expression. [See **Bibliography**.]

Discussion Point: First Nations people in many countries have sung, painted and told stories about animals for thousands of years. Read some in published picture books and discuss the animal facts revealed in these stories. Traditional '**pourquoi tales**' or '**origin stories**' and '**trickster tales**' are told in many cultures and often feature animals. Discuss the conventions employed in these tales and what they might reveal about animal behaviour. [See **Bibliography**.]

Activity: Discover the collective nouns for some of the animals in this book. [See **Worksheet 6**.]

Activity: Invite students to write a simple story as the basis for a picture book about a favourite migratory animal.

VISUAL LITERACY

This is relevant to the following Curriculum Area:

<<https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/the-arts/visual-arts/>>_

The visual text in this book combines with the written text to illustrate features of the various animals described.

Discussion Point: The **cover** of the book depicts the humpback whale journeying majestically in the depths of the sea, with the Christmas Island red crabs scrambling to the ocean, and the monarch butterflies wheeling, and the bar-headed goose soaring above in the sky. What does this cover suggest to you about the book's content and emotional impact?

Discussion Point: The endpapers contain drawn lines detailing the migrations of animals throughout the world. Design your own endpapers for the book by drawing six animals, then copying them to create a grid of repeated images.

Activity: The **title page** contains text with monarch butterflies as a decorative device, and the imprint page and contents page contain the swift parrot. Design another appropriate title page.

Activity: The **format** of the book allocates a double page to each animal. Create images to go with the various expository texts you created for your Alphabet of Migratory Animals. [See **English Language and Literacy** exercise above.]

Activity: The **medium** employed is digital art. Jennifer draws on a Wacom Cintiq, starting with a simple line sketch drawn from looking at photographs, then slowly adds detail and **colour**, foregrounded on stark white backgrounds. Invite students to create a portrait in this medium of one of the animals they've researched.

Activity: Create a **collage image** of one of the animals from this book [See **Worksheet 1**.]

Activity: Students might be encouraged to use critical literacy skills to unearth further meaning in this text. Encourage them to look closely at the images, to explain what they see, and then what the text says, and how these two elements add meaning to each other.

Activity: Invite students to illustrate the migratory animal story they wrote under **English Language and Literacy** above. (Discuss the conventions of the picture book story format before embarking on this exercise.)

CREATIVE ARTS

There are many creative activities suggested by this text:

1. **Craft:** Make a **model** of any of the animals included in this text, eg. a wildebeest. [See **Bibliography**.]
2. **Craft:** Create a **migratory animal mobile**. [See **Worksheet 5**.] [See **Bibliography**.]
3. **Craft:** Create an **origami animal**. [See **Bibliography**.]
4. **Music:** Discover **simple songs** about animals migrating and share them with the class, eg. this rap song canvases several animals included in this book:

'Migration Song – Animal Migrations' (Mr R's Songs for Teaching), *YouTube*, September 20, 2017 <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0HaKICM7SA>>

Watch this video, and encourage students to make up their own verses to continue this song.
5. **Craft:** Create a **diorama** depicting a Christmas Island red crab in its habitat. [See **Bibliography** for relevant resources.]
6. **Script:** Create a **book trailer** to promote this book. [See **Bibliography** for relevant resources.]

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES

Activity: Research topics suggested in these notes online.

MATHEMATICS

Activity: Discover mathematical facts such as how far the animals in this book travel.

FURTHER TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AND RESEARCH

- Research the work of Jennifer Cossins.
- Research this topic further. [See **Bibliography**.]
- Investigate any other topic suggested by this text.

CONCLUSION

This beautifully designed and illustrated non-fiction text, like Cossins' previous titles, is both entertaining and instructional, and will encourage creative research into the migratory behaviour of 25 animals throughout the world. It will teach students to observe and to protect wildlife. In this encyclopedia, Cossins provides young readers with carefully researched, fascinating insights into how animals travel vast distances, traversing incredible terrains in order to survive.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Jennifer Cossins is a CBCA award-winning artist and writer with a passion for nature, the animal kingdom and all things bright and colourful. A born and bred Tasmanian, Jennifer also designs homewares, textiles and stationery, which she stocks in her store in Hobart, Red Parka. Jennifer's other books include *Book of Curious Birds*, *A-Z of Endangered Animals*, *101 Collective Nouns*, *The Baby Animal Book*, *A-Z of Australian Animals*, *The Ultimate Animal Counting Book*, *A Flamboyance of Flamingos*, *The Mummy Animal Book*, *The Daddy Animal Book* and *The Ultimate Animal Alphabet Book*, and *Book of Curious Birds*. See her website: <https://redparka.com.au/pages/about-me>

ABOUT THE AUTHOR OF THE NOTES

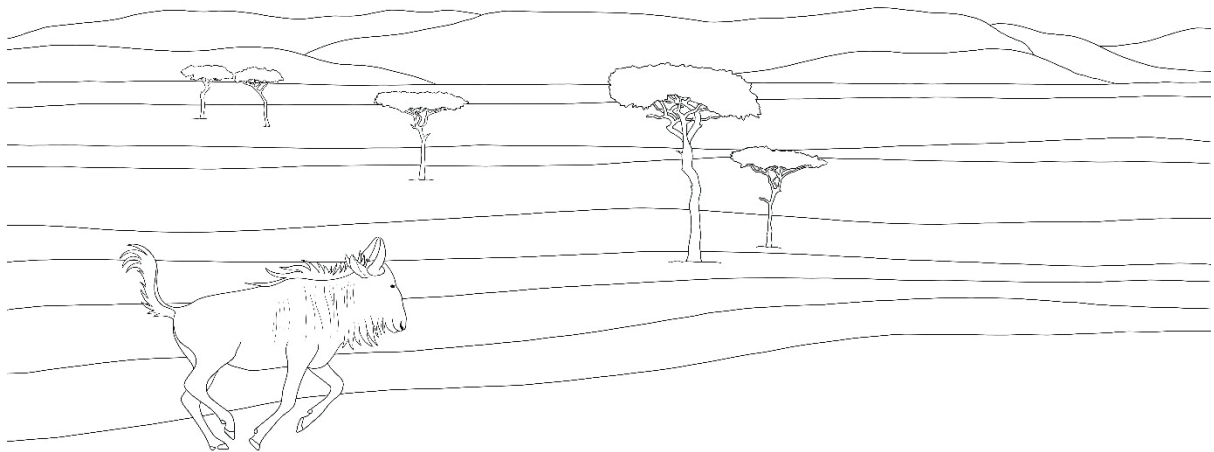
Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright AM operates justified text writing and publishing consultancy services, and is widely published on children's literature. In 2011 she was recipient of the CBCA (Qld Branch) Dame Annabelle Rankin Award, in 2012 the CBCA (National) Nan Chauncy Award for Distinguished Services to Children's Literature in Australia, and in 2014, the QWC's Johnno Award. In 2021 she was appointed a member of the Order of Australia.

WORKSHEETS

WORKSHEET 1. CREATE A COLLAGE LANDSCAPE

Illustration by Jennifer Cossins

This is an illustration of a wildebeest in the wild. Use found materials to create a collage of the landscape scene behind this animal, based on your research into its habitat. (You might choose to enlarge this image to A3 to allow more space to work on.)



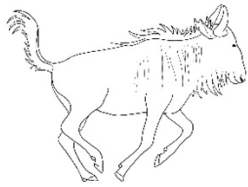
WORKSHEET 2. CREATE AN ALPHABET OF MIGRATORY ANIMALS

Write the names of animals from A to Z which don't appear in this book and then write one interesting fact beside it.

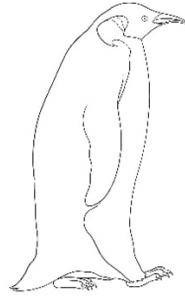
| | Animal | Interesting Fact |
|---|-------------|------------------|
| A | | |
| B | | |
| C | | |
| D | | |
| E | | |
| F | | |
| G | | |
| H | | |
| I | | |
| J | | |
| K | | |
| L | | |
| M | | |
| N | | |
| O | | |
| P | Pronghorn | |
| Q | | |
| R | | |
| S | | |
| T | Topi | |
| U | | |
| V | | |
| W | | |
| X | | |
| Y | | |
| Z | Zooplankton | |

WORKSHEET 3. NAME THIS MIGRATORY ANIMAL

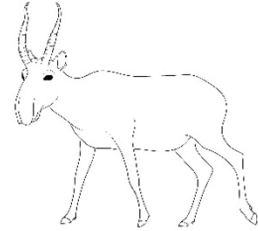
Illustrations by Jennifer Cossins



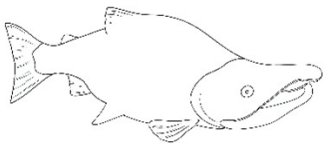
1.



2.



3.



4.



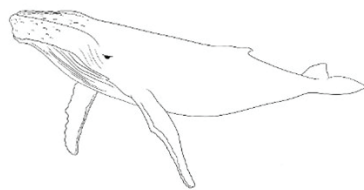
5.



6.



7.



8.



9.

Answers: 1. Wildebeest. 2. Emperor penguin. 3. Saiga antelope. 4. Sockeye salmon. 5. Arctic tern. 6. Christmas Island red crab. 7. Andean flamingo. 8. Humpback whale. 9. Monarch butterfly.

WORKSHEET 4. MIGRATORY ANIMALS QUIZ

1. What makes the Arctic tern so special?
2. What is the largest obstacle the wildebeest faces in its circular migration of the Serengeti National Park, in Tanzania, East Africa?
3. The Pacific bluefin tuna is one of the few warm-blooded fish which allows them to cope with what extremes?
4. Christmas Island red crabs migrate from the forest to the ocean to mate and spawn. How do the local community members assist them?
5. What makes the black-necked crane distinctive?
6. The humpback whale's migration is very leisurely. How slow do they travel?
7. The straw-coloured fruit bat annually migrate to Kasanka National Park in Zambia for a feast of wild fruit in a gathering renowned for what?
8. The caribou's migration is believed to be what?
9. What is remarkable about the swift parrot's migration?
10. Zebras consist of a number of smaller groups including the Burchell herd, which has what distinctive migratory habit?
11. The monarch butterfly migrates from Canada and North America to Mexico and back but each group of butterflies doesn't survive the whole journey. What is the nature of this migratory pattern?
12. The bar-headed goose can fly to what incredible altitude?
13. How does the sockeye salmon change during its migration?
14. What is unusual about the common cuckoo's parenting of its young?
15. The white-eared kob travels with other animals in one of the biggest concentrations of mammals on the earth. How large is it?
16. Why is the bar-tailed godwit considered 'a migration champion'?
17. The globe skimmer dragonfly can fly incredible distances. How far can they fly?
18. Why are Andean flamingos an endangered species?
19. The saiga antelope is also endangered. Apart from climate change what other threats have they faced?
20. How do emperor penguin chicks make their first migration?
21. The great snipe is known for what major feat?
22. What transformation takes place in the New Zealand longfin eel when it begins its epic migration?

23. The rufous hummingbird travels around 78 million times its body length one way. What is distinct about the company they keep on the journey?
24. The leatherback sea turtle is the largest turtle on earth. What is name of the group of eggs laid by the females?
25. Bogong moths migrate for what different reason to most migratory animals which travel to breed or for food.

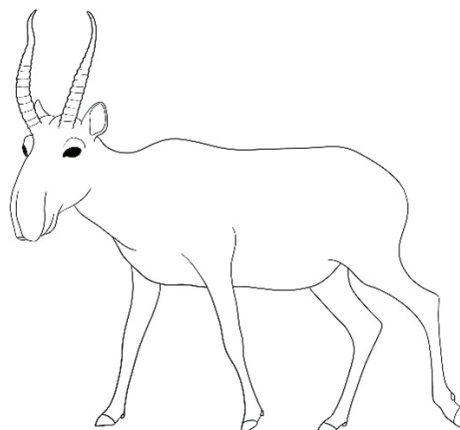
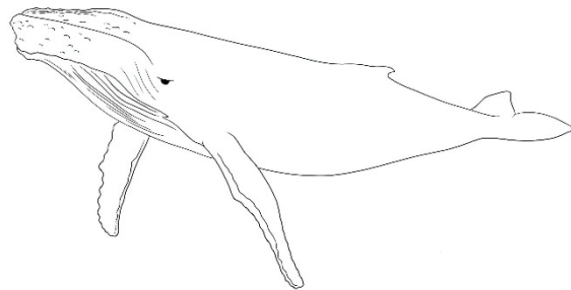
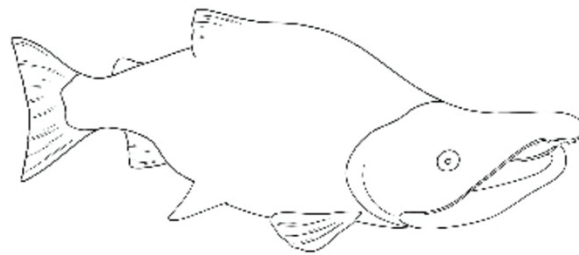
Answers: 1. 'The record for longest migration of all the birds in the world belongs to the sun-loving Arctic tern.' (p 2) 2. By July, the herd meets its biggest obstacle: the crocodile-infested Mara River.' (p 5) 3. 'They can cope with the icy cold waters in the north Pacific Ocean just as well as the tropical waters of Mexico.' (p 7) 4. 'Local communities have built crab bridges and tunnels, and sometimes even close roads, to help them safely reach the ocean.' (p 8) 5. They are 'the world's only alpine crane species.' (p 10) 6. Despite their immense size, they are known for 'travelling only one or two kilometres an hour.' (p 13) 7. It's regarded as the 'largest gathering of mammals in the world, with more than eight million bats taking over a patch of forest no bigger than a football field.' (p 14) 8. It 'is believed to be the longest land migration on the planet.' (p 17) 9. 'This aptly named bird is the world's fastest parrot, and one of only three parrots on Earth that migrate.' (p18) 10. 'Unusually, the herd of Burchell's zebras appears to migrate in an almost straight line.' (p 21) 11. 'It takes the monarchs four or five entire generations to complete the migration back to their northern home, with each generation only living around six weeks each.' (p 23) 12. 'The height these geese can reach is mind-blowing – they have been seen flying over Mount Everest, which is the world's tallest mountain at 8849 metres high' (p 25) 13. 'These fascinating fish change colour as they travel to help them attract a mate once they reach their spawning grounds. As they swim upstream, the sockeyes' bodies turn bright red and their heads an olive green.' (p 27) 14. 'Cuckoo parents don't have to wait for their young to grow before they migrate — they leave their young in the care of other birds instead.' (p 28) 15. 'Tightly packed, the herd of around 1.2 million animals can stretch 80 kilometres long and up to 50 kilometres wide.' (p 31) 16. 'Unlike most birds, which stop to feed and rest many times along their migration routes, the bar-tailed godwit likes to fly long-haul. In fact, the bar-tailed godwit is a migration champion and currently holds the record for the longest non-stop migration of any bird.' (p 32) 17. 'Globe skimmers can fly over 3000 kilometres without touching land, one of the longest insect flights known.' (p 34) 18. 'But due to habitat loss and water contamination from farming and mining, these flamingos are an endangered species.' (p 37) 19. 'The saiga population once numbered in the millions, but it has declined by more than 95 per cent in recent years — the fastest known decline of any mammal. One of the main threats saiga face is poaching for their horns, which are as valuable on the black market as rhinoceros horns.' (p 39) 20. 'The chicks must undertake their first migration from their birthplace to the sea without their parents, who have already left.' (p 41) 21. The great snipe 'is the fastest migratory bird on the planet!' (p 42) 22. The New Zealand longfin eel is known for 'transforming from a freshwater eel to a saltwater eel.' (p 44) 23. 'Unlike many birds, hummingbirds migrate alone.' (p 47) 24. A clutch (p 49). 25. 'Bogong moths migrate to find somewhere cool and sheltered from the harsh Australian summer.' (p 51)

WORKSHEET 5. ANIMAL MOBILE

Illustrations by Jennifer Cossins

Enlarge this sheet to A3 and stick to craft paper. Invite students to cut out the three animals (sockeye salmon, humpback whale and saiga antelope) and then attach to fishing line and hang from a straw, a metal hanger, or an embroidery hoop to create a migratory animal mobile.

[See 'How to make a Mobile' *Wikihow* <<http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Mobile>>]



WORKSHEET 6. COLLECTIVE NOUNS FOR MIGRATORY ANIMALS

1. A _____ of Arctic terns.
2. A _____ of wildebeest.
3. A _____ of Pacific bluefin tuna.
4. A _____ of black-necked cranes.
5. A _____ of humpback whales.
6. A _____ of caribou.
7. A _____ of zebra.
8. A _____ of bar-tailed godwits.
9. A _____ of emperor penguins.
10. A _____ of leatherback sea turtles.

Answers: 1. Colony. 2. Confusion. 3. Float. 4. Sedge, siege, herd. 5. Pod.
6. Herd. 7. Dazzle. 8. Omniscience, pantheon and prayer. 9. Colony, rookery or a waddle. 10. Bale or turn.

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World Wildlife Fund

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