Tips from the Author

I hope you will discover something new and exciting each time you read my book. Going Home, The Mystery of Animal Migration offers many opportunities for extended activities. Here are a few ideas.

Find their route

Go to www.dawnpub.com and click on “Educator Tools.” Then look for the cover of this book. There you will be able to download the map on pages 25-26 without the animals’ migration routes. Can you track their migrations? (Note: Primary Grade Teachers may want to put in dotted lines to give their students a head start.)

**Loggerhead turtle:** If migrating to a beach in the U.S., they would swim from somewhere in the North Atlantic Ocean to beaches from Virginia to Florida or on the Gulf coast west to Texas. The largest numbers go to south Florida.

**Monarch butterfly:** between Mexico and almost anywhere in the U.S. or Canada except the far north.

**Manatee:** between rivers or lagoons in Florida and coastal waters in the Atlantic as far north as Virginia.

**Ruby-throated hummingbird:** between Central America and anywhere on the east coast or Midwest, including southern Canada.

**California gray whale:** between Baja California, Mexico and the Bering Sea.

**Canada goose:** between southern U.S. and northern U.S. and Canada.

**Pacific salmon:** between somewhere in the North Pacific Ocean and a river or stream on the west coast of the U.S. or Canada.

**Caribou:** between north central Alaska and Canada and the tundra near the Arctic coast.

**Emperor penguin:** between coastal Antarctica and nesting grounds about 50 miles inland.

**Arctic tern:** between Antarctica and the Arctic, usually flying over the oceans.

Draw Your Own Map

Draw your own map and plot other animals that migrate. See the “enchanted learning” website for a list of migrating animals.

Reader’s Theater

Teachers can use this book for a reader’s theater to develop fluency and enhance comprehension. Ask students to choose one of the animals and pretend they are that animal. Think about how each animal might stand or move, and how to read the verse. For example, read manatee slowly and hummingbird quickly. Students can recite the first and last verse of this story in unison. As background music, you may want to use Antonin Dvorak’s Symphony No. 9 (the “New World” symphony). The tune of the largo movement fits the words to “Going Home.” For more information on reader’s theater see: http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=172

Construct an Attribute Chart

Draw a grid of facts about the migrating animals in this book. On the top horizontal sections of the grid enter category headings such as how the animal traveled (land, air or sea), reason for travel, length of trip or any other facts students have gathered from the book. On the left-hand section of the grid write the names of the ten migrating animals. Fill in the grid spaces for each animal.
BOOKMARKS

WHO AM I?
Ask students to choose one of the creatures in this book and write two sentences describing the animal, but not mentioning which one it is. For example: I have the longest migration route of any mammal in the world. I breathe air through a blowhole. Who am I?

WRITE YOUR OWN STORY
Many animals migrate and offer wonderful opportunities for creative writing. Choose an animal not mentioned in this book, find out about it, then write about it. I wrote “The Wonder of It All” as an example. Your character will have its own unique story and you can tell it in the way you like best. Have fun with your own creation about an animal that is “going home.” I would love to hear from teachers and parents on ways you have used this book. www.MarianneBerkes.com

THE WONDER OF IT ALL
(An example of creative non-fiction by Marianne Berkes)
On a moonlit beach, a baby sea turtle frantically climbed out of a nest filled with broken eggshells and down a sandy slope toward the sea. She got out just before a creature with a black mask, searching for an evening meal, started slurping up the egg yolks that the newborns had left behind.

She scrambled to the water’s edge with her many siblings. Hungry crabs crawled after some of the hatchlings, while others were devoured by squawking sea gulls, but luckily the loggerhead turtle in this story made it into the ocean.

She splashed in a frenzy for several days in an ocean swarming with sharks, bluefish, and other hungry predators. Finally she found a huge patch of drifting sargasso seaweed and there she hid. She found tiny shrimp and other seafood in the floating camouflage and she grew bigger and stronger. After a while the seaweed didn’t hide her anymore. She was heavier than most humans—over 250 pounds and almost 3 feet long. It was time to explore!

Now a young adult, the loggerhead turtle floated over colorful coral reefs filled with an abundance of sea life. She paddled thousands of miles in the wide and often treacherous Atlantic Ocean, past the Azore Islands, and past the Canary Islands, in a vast clockwise circle. She wandered in the sea for many years, finding plenty of crabs and mollusks to eat. But she was always on the lookout for sharks and other large fish that would devour her.

One day, far out in the Atlantic, she mated with a male loggerhead. Soon, she knew, it would be time to swim back to the beach of her birth twenty years ago. How would she find her way? Somehow she knew it was a journey she had to make.

Instinctively this great “nomad of the sea” found her beach. Graceful and buoyant in water, she now dragged herself ashore with her flippers. Crawling up the beach, she rotated her bulky body to move the sand.

She dug a deep chamber and dropped over a hundred ping-pong-ball-shaped eggs into her nest. Then with her rear flippers she pushed sand over the chamber and packed the sand to cover the eggs. With her front flippers she threw sand in all directions to disguise the nest.

When her work was done, Mama Loggerhead pulled her heavy body around and slowly crawled down to the water’s edge. Then, in the moonlight, she paddled out to the welcoming arms of the sea.