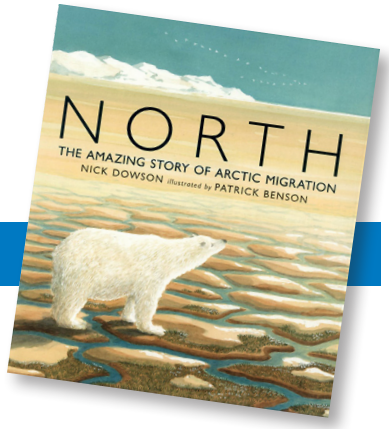
North: The Amazing Story of Arctic Migration



RIF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR EDUCATORS

STEAM-THEMED: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART, MATH

SCIENCE, WRITING
ARCTIC ALLITERATIONS

Materials: index cards, markers or crayons

Have students gather at least five facts about four polar animals of their choice. For each animal, they must use the facts to create an alliteration describing that animal (e.g., "Pouncing polar bears are powerful predators."). Have students draw a picture of the animal and write the alliteration on the blank side of the index card and list the facts on the back.

TECHNOLOGY, SCIENCE, GEOGRAPHY
TRACK IT!

Visit **www.learner.org/jnorth** to track various animals migrating north. Create a class migration map and update it weekly, or have students pick an animal and track its progress in a migration journal.

ENGINEERING, SCIENCE
COMPACT COMPASS

Materials (per group): used CD, small magnet, washer, glue, bowl, water

Glue the magnet (magnetic side up) halfway between the center hole and edge of the CD. Glue washer of equal weight directly across from magnet the same distance between the center and edge. Place the CD in a shallow bowl of water. Which direction is the magnet pointing? Why? Explain that animals migrating north have an inner compass that works with the magnetic field of the earth to lead them to the right location. Discuss how this might be possible.

ART, SCIENCE
THE ART OF CAMOUFLAGE

Materials: paper, tissue paper, glue, water, crayons, paint brush

What does it mean to be *camouflaged*? Which animals in the Arctic use this survival technique? Have students draw a picture of an animal using this trait. Students should then create a backdrop depicting a season in the Arctic. They may use tissue paper, crayons, or both.

MATH, SCIENCE
MIGRATION MATH

Practice problem solving using these fun migration facts: The caribou walks at a pace of 7 km/hour, 20-65 km per day, and can swim 3 km/hour. The arctic tern can fly 11,000 miles before stopping. The gray whale swims 5,000 miles to reach the Arctic each spring.

Sample questions:

- You want to take your pet caribou for a 5 km run. How long will your run take? Would this be humanly possible? Explain your reasoning.
- A gray whale has traveled 3,000 miles so far. If whales had to follow the speed limit of 55 mph, how long would it take the whale to reach its destination?
- Create a problem and equation that produces the following answer: The arctic crane traveled 5,000 miles.