

## National Geographic Kids Reader: Amazing Animal Journeys

### Notes for teachers: using this book in the classroom

**Reading objectives:** read most words quickly and accurately, without overt sounding and blending, when they have been frequently encountered; read aloud books closely matched to their improving phonic knowledge, sounding out unfamiliar words accurately, automatically and without undue hesitation; read books that are structured in different ways and reading for a range of purposes; retrieve and record information from non-fiction

**Spoken language objectives:** participate in discussions, presentations, performances, role play/improvisations and debates; use spoken language to develop understanding through speculating, hypothesising, imagining and exploring ideas; articulate and justify answers, arguments and opinions; give well-structured descriptions, explanations and narratives for different purposes, including for expressing feelings

**Curriculum links:** Science: Animals, including humans; Living things and their habitats; Mathematics: Measurement; Art and Design; Writing – composition

**Interest words:** migration, mate, camouflage, scavenger, larvae, instinct, blubber, predator, ice floe, species, habitat, Makgadikgadi, Nxai Pan, Wyoming, Boteti, Botswana, Pacific Ocean, Bering Sea, Chukchi Sea, Wrangel Island, region, climate, polluting, recycle

**Pronunciation guide:** Makgadikgadi (*Mak-ad-ik-adi*), Nxai (*N-zay*), Wyoming (*Wy-oh-ming*), Boteti (*Boh-te-tee*), Chukchi (*ch-uk-chi*)

**Resources:** paper; pencils; pens; ICT

Children who are reading at White and Lime book bands will be able to read this book in a group, pair or independently over several sessions. They will have good reading stamina and will be able to tackle more challenging vocabulary and a range of varied sentence structures. Guided group work and independent challenges can be used to develop retrieval, interpretation and meaning making, as well as children's ability to express and explain ideas and concepts.

### Language

- Most of the language in the book will be decoded by children using the full range of cues available to them and extensive word knowledge. Some discussion in guided groups and after independent reading can be used to develop children's abilities to understand and interpret more complex information. Children may need help with the following:
  - decoding and understanding some of the words contained in the *Word Wise* boxes: *migration, mate, camouflage, scavenger, larvae, instinct, blubber, predator, ice floe, species, habitat*. Children may need to look at the glossary to use the visual support provided.
  - reading and pronouncing some place names: *Makgadikgadi, Nxai Pan, Wyoming, Boteti, Botswana, Pacific Ocean, Bering Sea, Chukchi Sea, Wrangel Island*.
  - reading the topic language: *region, climate, polluting, recycling*.

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- Children may need help to read some of the data that describes each creature and their situation, e.g. the statistics about zebras on page 7.
- To develop understanding, children may need to discuss the complex problems facing each creature; the reasons for their migration, and the possible solutions.
- Children may need help to follow the sequences of events shown in the illustrations and text, e.g. the numbered boxes that show the red crabs migrating to mate on pages 22–23.

## Images

- Look at the front cover and ask children to name the creature and identify its features. Challenge them to suggest what the walruses are doing and why.
- Spend time enjoying the beautiful images of the migrating creatures. Look closely at the labelled pictures to see the features that are labelled and described.

## Activities

- Provide paper, pencils and pens. Ask children to design a poster to educate people about how we can help the Pacific Walruses.
- Interview a child in role as a walrus, crab or zebra, asking questions about why they migrate and what humans can do to help them.
- Using the internet, research other animal migrations. Provide paper and pencils and challenge children to create a fact sheet about another migrating creature.

## Questions

- Why do some animals need to migrate?
- How do baby zebras identify their mothers?
- What dangers do migrating red crabs face and how are they helped?
- What do walruses use their tusks for?
- Which migrating creature is the most amazing and why?