

activity

How Far Can You Go?

Why do some animals migrate so far, and some stay so close to home? This activity will help you think about why different kinds of animals travel different distances when they migrate. For this activity you will need a few people: one to call out animal names, and the others to be migrating animals.

- 1 Make a list of animals that move in different ways. You can include a bird that flies, a snake that slithers, a lobster that crawls backwards, and a deer that runs.
- 2 Decide how a human can best imitate how each of the animals on your list moves. Have everyone practice moving like each of the different animals.
- 3 Mark a starting point. This mark is the summer home of your animal, and where the racers will start their fall migration.
- 4 Measure about 25 meters or yards from the starting point. Mark that point. That is the finish line, and the winter home of your animal.

Supplies

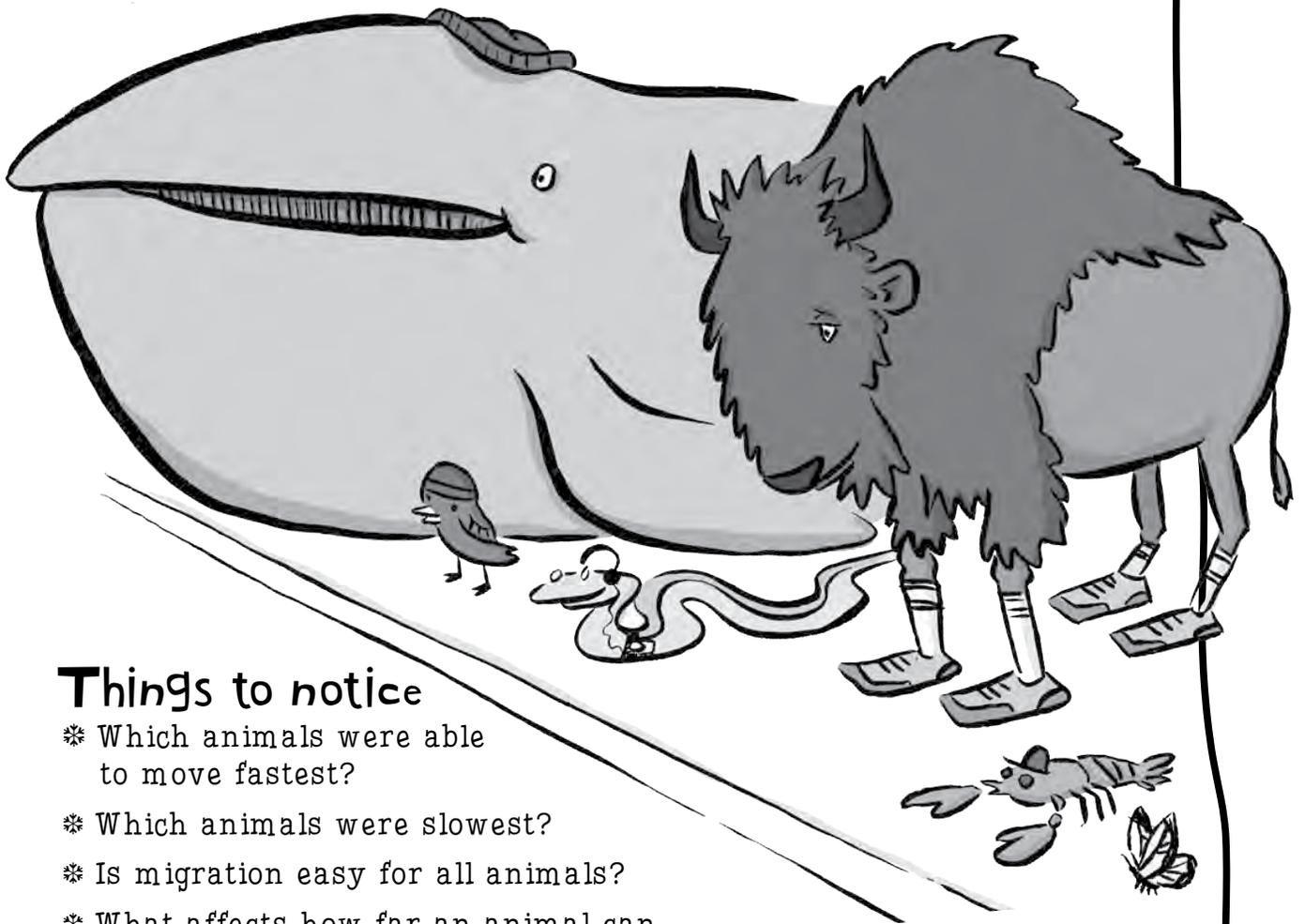
list of migrating animals ❄️
measuring tape ❄️
an open area like a hallway, playground, or your back yard ❄️
stopwatch

- 5 Choose someone to be the caller. They will call out "ready, set," and then the name of a migrating animal instead of "go."
- 6 The racers must then begin migrating from the start to the finish using that animal's form of movement. If you are a

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goose, you can fly. If you are a snake, you must slither. If you are a whale, you must swim. If you are a lobster, you must crawl. If you are a deer, you can run or walk. While the racers are migrating, the caller can shout out a new animal, and the racers all change how they move to match that new animal.

7 Another fun variation on this activity is to use a stopwatch to time how long it takes each animal to migrate from its winter home to its summer home.



Things to notice

- * Which animals were able to move fastest?
- * Which animals were slowest?
- * Is migration easy for all animals?
- * What affects how far an animal can migrate?