

HOME CONNECTIONS

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Families—Your child has been learning about migrating and resident birds. This sheet offers information and activities so the whole family can enjoy birds too.

TAKING FLIGHT—FLYING AND MIGRATION

Map Your Migration

Think of a common route you and your family take. Maybe this is your walk or drive to school, to a nearby park, or to a friend's house. If you were a bird, what landmarks would you look for to help you navigate this route? Is there a specific store, statue, or tree that you recognize? What if you had to look for those landmarks from a bird's-eye view?

Use the space below to draw a map from a bird's-eye view, "migrating" from your home to a place you commonly visit. Feel free to use helpful tools, such as Google Maps.



A large rectangular area enclosed by a dotted purple border, intended for drawing a map from a bird's-eye view.

COOL FACT

How Birds Migrate

Birds can cover thousands of miles in their spring and fall migrations, usually traveling the same route year after year. Even birds migrating for the first time know the way. How birds navigate during migration isn't fully known, but we do know that different birds use different strategies. One strategy is recognizing landmarks. Other strategies include using the sun, stars, and Earth's magnetic field as compasses.

Bird of the Month

DARK-EYED JUNCO

This bird has several color variations that can be seen across the U.S. A Dark-eyed Junco on the West Coast may have more of a brown back compared to the slate-colored look in the East. However, they all have a pink bill and a white belly, which led to its nickname, "Snow Bird."



Dark-eyed Juncos
by Evan Barbour

Hands-On Activity

PAPER AIRPLANE CHALLENGE

Experiment with flight by making and testing different paper airplane designs. How will different materials, shapes, and sizes affect the plane's flight? What happens if you cut the ends of the wings in a zigzag shape or throw the plane into or away from a headwind (fan)? Jot down some of your observations.
