

Resource Reviews

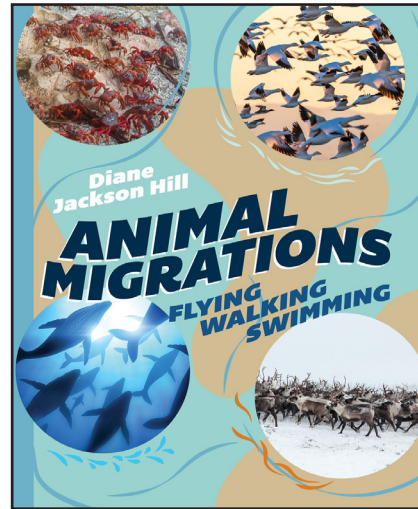
Animal Migrations: Flying, Walking, Swimming

Written by: Diane Jackson Hill.

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Information : <https://www.publish.csiro.au/book/8044/>

Audience: Ages 8–12.



Animal Migrations: Flying, Walking, Swimming is a non-fiction text authored by Diane Jackson Hill. The 80-page text is a valuable resource for young readers and primary classrooms to introduce nature, the significance of animal migrations, and the impact that humans have on them. The author is a retired primary teacher who has also written the award-winning book, *Windcatcher: Migration of the Short-tailed Shearwater*.

The text consists of ten chapters detailing the modes and reasons for different animal migrations and their ecological, socioeconomic and cultural significance. The book includes many interesting examples of migrations, ranging from microscopic zooplanktons to larger animals such as, mammals, birds, insects, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and crustacean, that are well supported by over a hundred vivid and detailed photographs. The first six chapters focus on how animals migrate in search of suitable climate, food sources, and for reproductive needs, as well as to maintain sustainable population densities. The latter chapters clearly explain the significance of migration events to natural food webs, ecosystem functions, and human livelihoods, as well as the harmful impacts of human activities on the animal migrations and thus the sustainability of natural ecosystems and processes.

I believe this book, in conjunction with the teacher notes available online from CSIRO Publishing, would be a valuable resource in primary classrooms to deliver key learning outcomes in the Australian science, English, and humanities and social science curricula. For instance, I particularly liked how the

author presented the historical evidence for ancient channels, weirs and woven eel traps engineered by Gunditjmarra people in Budj Bim to trap, farm and harvest the migrating southern shortfin eel (p. 56–59). These details, along with the teacher notes, provide sufficient inspiration for rich inquiry-based learning activities to engage students with key learning outcomes for the Science as a Human Endeavour sub strand of the Australian science curriculum. Most importantly, the last chapter promotes strong student agency where students learn about lifestyle choices and how to take actions that do not threaten animal migration patterns, thus promoting ecosystem sustainability.

The content, language and typography of the book are perfectly aimed at engaging middle and upper primary students. However, the book can be used in lower primary classrooms through the judicious use of the images and maps to engage younger learners who are curious and multimodal.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading the text and particularly looking at the wonderfully detailed scientific photographs of the different species, their habitats, and their migratory patterns. Overall, an interesting read and a wonderful scientific text, which I highly recommend.

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