


Session title	The migration challenge	
Key question	What challenges to migratory birds face and what can we do to help them?	
Session description	Explore the amazing journey of Whooper swans from Iceland to WWT Martin Mere. How do these locations compare and what does each offer these amazing birds? Investigate the human and physical threats they face on their journey and what we can do to help them.	
Key Stage	KS3	
Duration	60 mins	

Curriculum links	<p>KS3 Science - Biology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Differences between species How organisms affect, and are affected by, their environment, including the accumulation of toxic materials. The interdependence of organisms in an ecosystem <p>KS3 Geography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand how human and physical processes interact to influence and change landscapes, environments and the climate, and how human activity relies on effective functioning of natural systems. Build on their knowledge of globes, maps and atlases and apply and develop this knowledge routinely in the classroom and in the field 	
Learning outcomes	All learners...	More able learners...
	<p>Will be able to identify a whooper swan, a goose and different species of ducks</p> <p>Will be able to explain why whooper swans migrate between Iceland and Martin Mere</p> <p>Will be able to describe how WWT helps migratory birds</p>	<p>Will be able to identify different species of swans</p> <p>Will be able to describe the conditions in Iceland which benefit swans in summer sufficiently to make the 900-mile migration.</p>
Key vocabulary	Swan, migrate, migration, survival, skeleton, structure, environment, habitat	

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	5 mins
Learners are given a brief intro to WWT Martin Mere and are introduced to the key question: What challenges do migratory birds face and what can we do to help them?	
Activity 1: Observation from the hide	10 mins
Learners visit the hide to see the whooper swans. They identify swans and observe behaviours, recording these on cards, in pairs.	
Activity 2: The migratory journey	10 mins
<p>Session leader reinforces whooper swan ID and introduces the incredible journey.</p> <p>Learners gather round the floor map/s. The session leader helps them to locate the journey and calculate distances, Iceland to UK.</p> <p>The session leader develops the learners' understanding of how whooper swans migrate using a range of props (Wings, bones, weight bags).</p>	

Activity 3: Class migration game	15 mins
Learners role-play the whooper swan migration, in 'family' groups.	
Activity 4: Small group working to find out why the swans do it.	15 mins
Learners work through a matching cards activity to discover why whooper swans migrate from Martin Mere to Iceland in spring, then fly back again.	
Plenary	5 mins
Learners share what they have learned about the Whooper swans, and have an opportunity to ask further questions.	