

Connecting Continents – Man and Birds on the Move

A 90-minute indoor Habitat Game starts discovery of today's earth problems.

From our birthplace in Africa centuries ago, humans have populated almost all corners of the earth. Today, dual problems — over-population and global warming — threaten Mother Earth. Hunger in the southern hemisphere's economically weaker countries is driving people from their homes. They migrate north, hoping for a "better" place to live. Birds migrate too. They overwinter in Africa. In spring they fly north, hoping to return to intact breeding and feeding areas. Since 1900, data on migration shows bird numbers declining. During that time, farming practices have changed from family farms to industrial.

Enroll your students today in this hands-on Habitat game to create a dynamic classroom for your continued study.

What are the outcomes of the game?

- unveil the interconnectedness between human activities and the natural world/environment
- increase awareness of the part birds play (some species live on insects which we consider harmful)
- raise appreciation for birds, their accomplishments (some species fly non-stop thousands of km), their beauty, their songs
- become advocates for responsible management and conservation of birds
- raise awareness as a consumer
- improve our understanding of factors influencing migration (of man and birds), survival, breeding success

Overall Threats

Changing weather patterns, for example: La niña

Drought affects farmers' crops and livestock survival, famine

Over-population

Urbanization

Consumer demands - greenhouses

Industrial agriculture

Pesticides and herbicides

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Deeper Learning - Topics for Group Activities and Research

Reduce CO2 emissions

Farming

Encourage organic farming

Buy locally grown food

Farm-to-Fork Strategy NOT Farm-to-Export / Importing food makes countries dependent / reduce food imports

Importing soya beans grown on plantations in former Amazon rain forests —> factory farming

Support IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements)

Cooperate with conservationists in stopover areas

Be accountable as individuals (men and women): manage your ecological footprint

Overpopulation - educate girls and boys, encourage breast feeding, rethink role of men

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Recommended Reading

Birkhead, Tim: BIRD SENSE - What It's Like to be a Bird.

ISBN 978-14088-3054-3

Cannings, Richard: An Enchantment OF BIRDS.
ISBN 10: 978-1-55365-235-9

Al Gore: An Inconvenient Truth.
ISBN 1-59486-567-1

Henson, Robert: Climate Change - Symptoms - Science - Solutions
ISBN 978- 1—85828-105-6

Scott Weidensaul: *A World on the Wing* - the Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds.
ISBN-13: 978-150984-1035

Frederic Vester: Die Kunst vernetzt zu denken.
ISBN 3-423 33077-5

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