Geese on the Move

Passage 5 · Nonfiction · Grades 2–3



Name _____ Date _____

Honk! Honk! In the fall, you might hear this sound high in the sky. Look up, and you may see a large group of Canada geese flying in the shape of a V.

Many Canada geese migrate each year. To migrate means to move from one place to another when the seasons change. In the fall, these geese fly south, where winters are warmer. There they can find food to eat and water that is not frozen. In the spring, they fly back north to build nests and raise their babies, which are called goslings.

Why do geese fly in a V? Flying in this shape helps them save energy. Each goose gets a little lift from the air moving off the wings of the goose in front of it. The goose at the front works the hardest. When it gets tired, it moves back, and another goose takes a turn leading.

Geese honk as they fly. Scientists think the honking helps the flock stay together.

Some geese travel hundreds or even thousands of miles. They stop along the way at lakes, ponds, and fields to rest and eat. Geese eat grass, seeds, and grain.

Not every goose migrates. Some Canada geese live near ponds and in parks all year long, as long as they can find food and open water.

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