



MINIS AT HOME

volume 1, issue 4

Greetings kids, parents, grandparents, guardians, friends and neighbors!

Welcome to the fourth Minis at Home newsletter. Grownups: please work on projects together with your children. Your pARTicipation is important!

This week's theme = MIGRATION

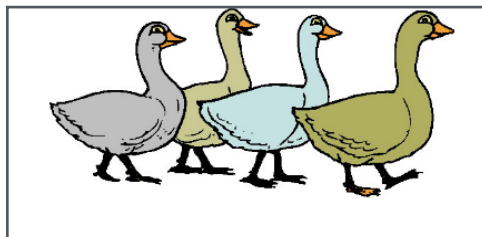
Feel that nip in the air? That means that fall is here and winter will be coming soon. For some animals, that means it's time to *migrate*.

What is migration? It's the seasonal movement from one place to another. When the seasons change some animals (and some people, too!) move to a new home for awhile. Cold weather can make it more difficult for animals to find food, so some will travel to a warmer place where they know there will be plenty to eat. Once spring comes, they'll go back to their other homes and enjoy their old familiar surroundings.

How do animals know when it's time for them to travel to their winter homes? Do they just wake up one day and say, "I'm leaving?" Animals that migrate have an "internal" clock in their brains! That means that they just know when to go. They may sense that the days are shorter or that the weather is colder and the sun is lower in the sky. Some animals find their way to their winter homes by using the land and stars as guides. Some people think that animals are born knowing where to go, when to go and how to get there...as if they have a little map that lives in their brain. Wouldn't you love to know how and when to travel somewhere new? Somewhere far far away?

These are some of the animals that migrate: Whales, geese, hummingbirds, sparrows, warblers, salmon, monarch butterflies, reindeer, Arctic terns, sea turtles and even zebra.

We live in an area with many Canada geese! Some of the geese that



live here in the summer start to migrate south in the fall. Other geese actually come here for the winter from further up north. For them, the Eastern Shore is a warm paradise when we're busy building snowmen.



You might hear lots of honking these days, as geese are on the move. Look up in the sky when you hear noisy geese. You will see them flying together in the shape of a V. This helps them fly safely and work together as a group.

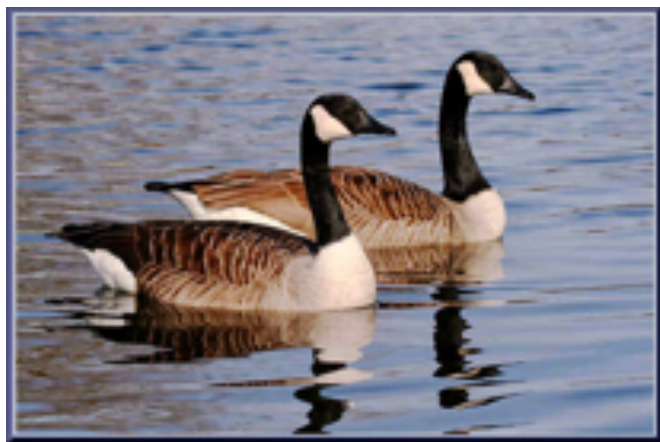
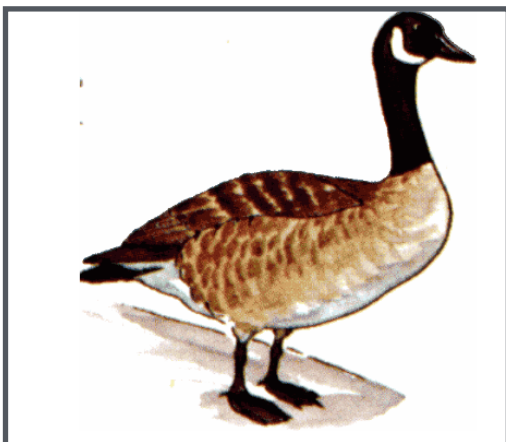
Why do Geese honk to each other? Why do they fly in a V shape? Well, have you ever heard of teamwork? Geese care for each other and work together so that they all can be successful. Below are some ways that geese can teach us humans lessons about teamwork and helping each other out:

- Geese "honk" to cheer each other on as they fly. [Now, you honk to say, "Way to go, team!"].
- Geese fly in a V, one right behind the other, because the flapping creates an "uplift" for the goose behind them, giving each goose a little "help" flying. [Tuck your fists under your shoulders and flap to show that you care about your family and friends].
- When the leader of the V gets tired, it flies to the back of the V. Then it's the next goose's turn to be in front. [High five your grownup to show that sharing is caring]
- If a goose needs to land to rest, 2 other geese will go with it and stay with it until it can fly again. [Hug your grownup to say "thanks for being there for me."]

Activity: **BUDDING NATURALIST—LOOKING AT GEESE**

If you get a chance to see some geese outside, notice what they're doing and what kinds of noises they make. Are the geese on the ground or in the sky? How fast are they moving?

What colors are they? What parts of the geese are white? Do all geese look the same? At home, cuddle up close with your grownup and search for pictures of geese on the internet. How are various kinds of geese different? Which kinds live around here?



Craft: SHAPE GEESE

Make a Goose "Shape" Collage (GREAT for scissors skills and shape identification): Geese are not too complicated to make if you think of them as being made up of lots of different shapes. Look at the next page to see the shape assortment you need. Can you name the shapes you see? There are different-sized ovals for the body and head, triangles for the bill and feet, long rectangles for the neck and legs, and skinny ovals for the feathers. Get your pencil and scissors handy!

Psst to grown-ups: Even if you think you can't draw, please DON'T share that with your children. You don't want to plant seeds of self-doubt in your children. Drawing is a skill that can be developed. The directions we give for drawing will always be easy enough for you to follow, even if you "don't think you have a creative bone in your body."

Materials:

White, tan/brown, blue and black construction paper (or you can color white paper)

Scissors

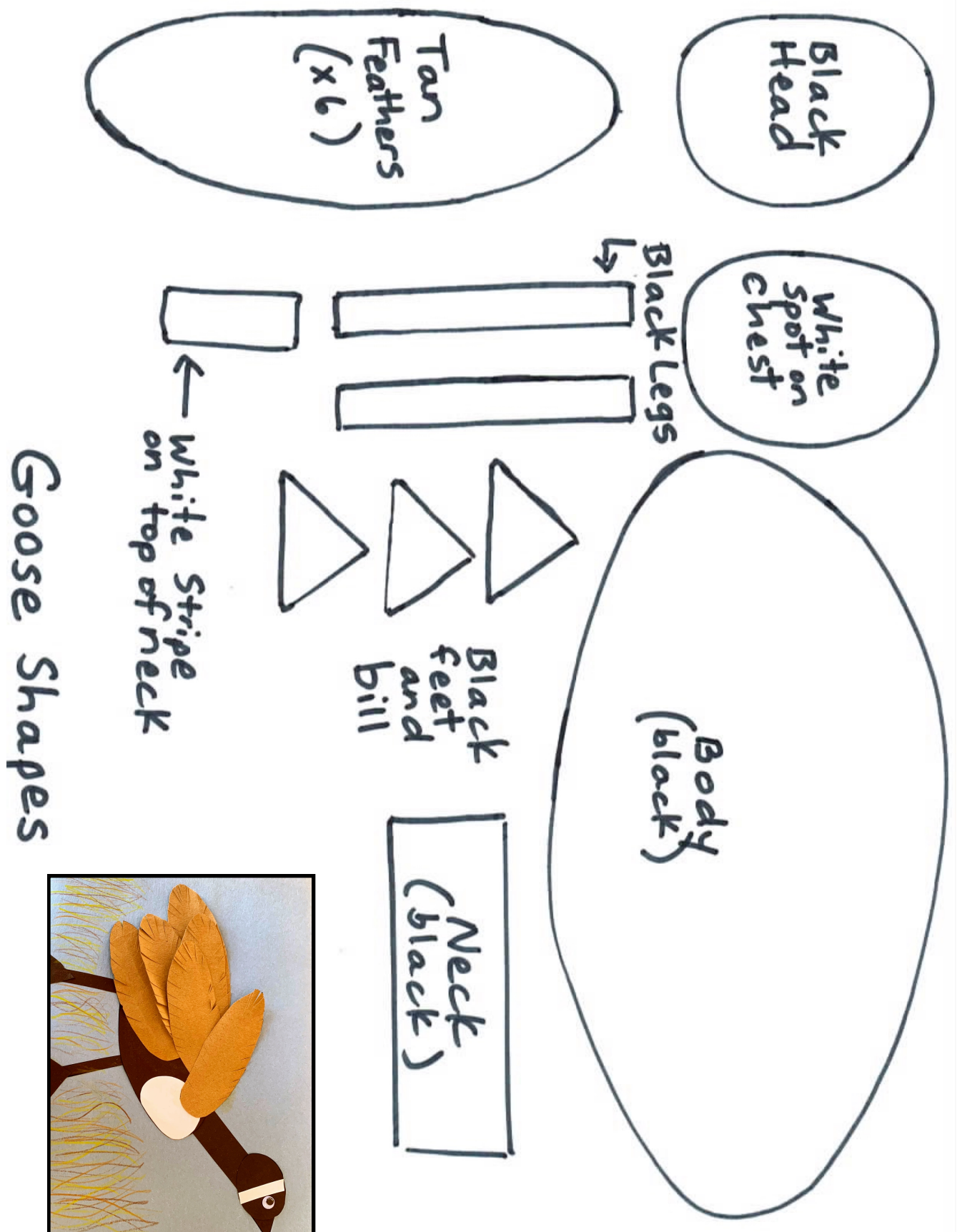
Glue stick (for paper)

Crayons or markers

Googly eye (1)

Craft glue or glue dot (for googly eye)





Procedure:

Draw and cut out the shapes depicted on the previous page. If you don't have colored paper, you can use markers or crayons to color white paper.

Snip around the edges of each feather so it looks "feathery." This is easier than it looks and lots of fun!

Arrange your shapes to form a goose on a piece of blue construction paper and glue them down. Work with your grownup to decide which shapes should be glued down first.

Using crayons or markers, draw a background for your goose. Is your goose swimming in water or eating corn in a field? Add other details with crayons or markers if you like.

Add a googly eye so your goose can see! If you don't have a google eye, you can cut out a small circle from construction paper or simply draw one.

Activity: SINGING

(Sung to "Ten in the Bed." If you don't know this song, you can hear a performance of it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jk7N3bKvgvg>)

In Wintertime, some animals roam
To find themselves a warmer home

Migration! Migration!

Some birds fly south, that's their thing
They don't return until the spring

Migration! Migration!

In wintertime, some butterflies swarm
They all head south to where it's warm

Migration! Migration!

In wintertime, whales find they need
Some warmer waters in which to breed

Migration! Migration!

They all migrate when temperatures drop
They find a new home, and there they stop

Migration! Migration!

In spring the birds and butterflies roam
And like the whales they come back home

Migration! Migration!



(from Content-Building Learning Songs @ Meish Goldish,
Scholastic Teaching Resources)

Literacy: POEM TO SHARE**On Their Way!**

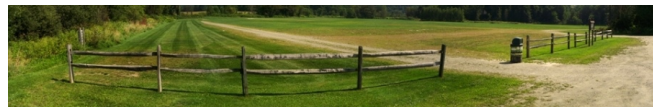
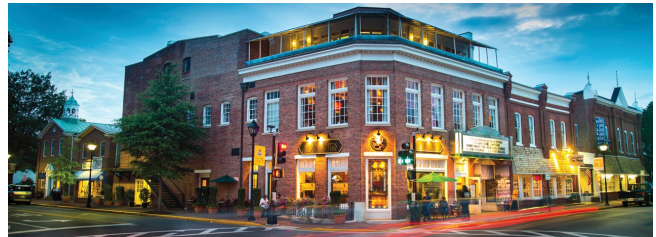
by Constance Del Nero

Goose, goose,
goose on the loose
honking to her friends,
We must vamoose!

Fall is here: Let's fly away
Can't you feel the cold today?
Let's leave now,
please don't delay.

Five geese, nine geese,
twenty-three
jump into the sky
and form a V

Over cities they fly,
fields and rivers, too.
Each honking to the next,
"I'm following you!

**Geese: Fun Facts**

When geese fly in a V-formation, every goose can see what's happening in front of them.

Canada geese fly at an average speed of about 40 miles per hour when migrating, but may increase their speed to 70 miles per hour if they catch a strong tailwind. That's really fast! Have you ever been in a car going 70 miles an hour? That's over the speed limit on some highways.

Migrations can be as long as 2,000 to 3,000 miles. If the weather is good, geese can fly up to 1,500 miles in a single day!

A Canada goose can weigh up to 14 pounds. That's about twice as much as a newborn baby!

Canada geese can have a wingspan of up to 5 feet. Have your grownup show you how wide that is. Lie down in the middle of that space and spread your arms wide. How much longer would your arms have to be if your "armspan" were 5 feet?

Literacy: **RECOMMENDED BOOKS**

Snuggle up in a big comfy chair and read together

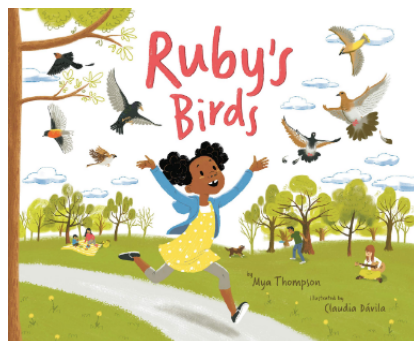
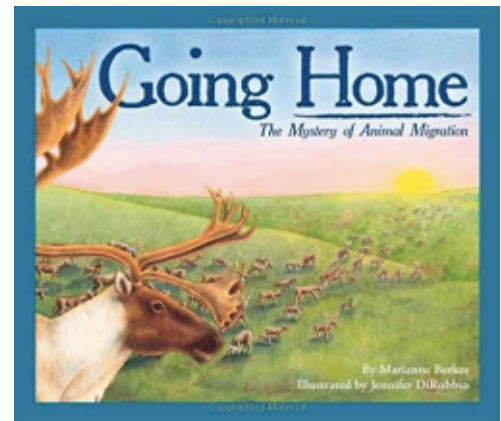
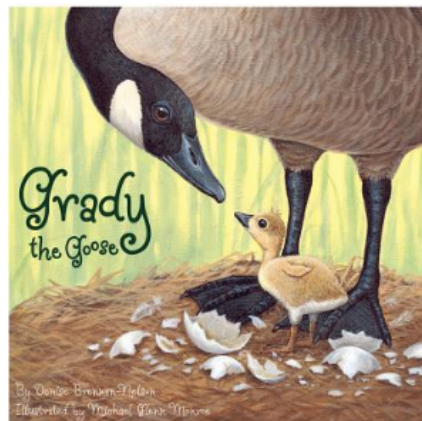
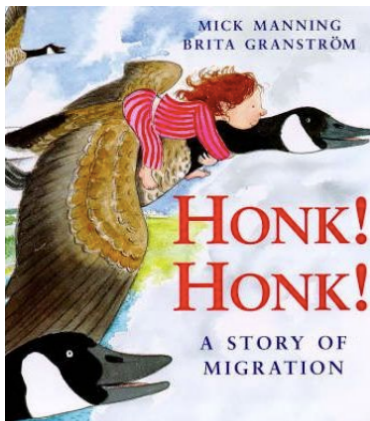
Honk, Honk, by Mick Manning and Brita Granström

Grady the Goose, by Denise Brennan-Nelson

Going Home, by Marianne Berkes

Ruby's Birds, by Mya Thompson

Following Papa's Song, by Gianna Marino



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See you next week with issue 5 of **Minis at Home!**

Share your work on <https://www.instagram.com/minimastersaam/>

or email pictures to Ann Hansen

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