

INCREDIBLE Marine Animal Journeys



The
Wildlife
Trusts

National Marine Week is The Wildlife Trusts' yearly celebration of the UK's seas and wildlife. We want people to discover the amazing marine life around our shores and to take action to protect our seas. Because the tides around our coasts change, it runs for 16 days so more people can experience the remarkable migrations and movements of marine life. From whales and seabirds to sharks, salmon and eels, marine animals travel huge distances across oceans and rivers. Let's find out why!

European eel



© SOLVIN ZANK/NATUREPL.COM

Limpet



© RICHARD BURKMAR

Basking shark



© ALEX MUSTARD/2020VISION

Bottlenose dolphin



© JOHN MACPHERSON/2020VISION

Manx shearwater



© CHRIS GOMERSALL/2020VISION

Spider crab



© MARK THOMAS

Bluefin tuna



© RICHARD HERRMANN/NATUREPL.COM

Arctic tern



© ROBE JAC/NATUREPL.COM

Humpback whale



© RICHARD SHUCKSMITH/SCOTLANDBIGPICTURE.COM

Grey seal



© ALEX MUSTARD/2020VISION

Atlantic salmon



© MIKE POTTS/NATUREPL.COM

Migration and Movement

Who goes where?

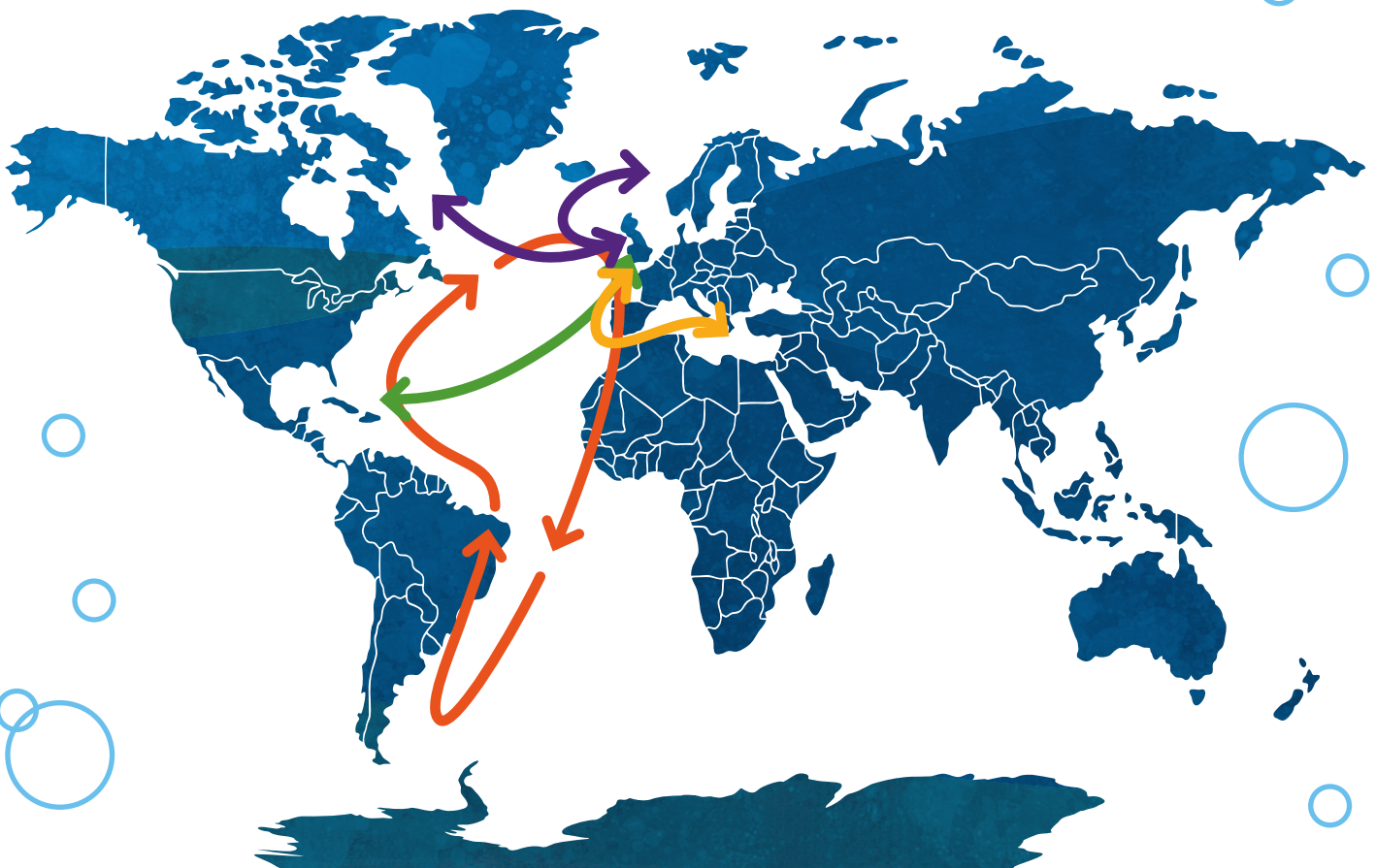
Use the fact files on the next page to match the animal to its migration route! Write each species name next to its photo.









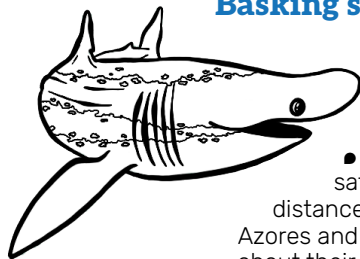


Fact File

Colour us in!

Find out more about the mega journeys these marine animals take.

Basking shark



- The basking shark is the second largest fish in the world – but it only eats tiny plankton.
- They travel long distances, but scientists are still uncovering their secrets.
- They spend the summer in our waters and satellite tracking has shown they can migrate long distances, with some tagged sharks showing up off the Azores and even Newfoundland, but we're still learning more about their movements.

European eel



- European eels begin life thousands of miles away in the Sargasso Sea and drift to the UK as tiny, see-through larvae.
- They can wriggle over damp land to reach rivers and lakes, where they feed and grow!
- After many years, they swim all the way back across the ocean to spawn in the Sargasso Sea.

Spider crab



- Spider crabs gather in huge groups, sometimes in piles of thousands!
- They migrate to shallow waters to shed their shells, breed and grow.
- Some crabs can travel over 100 miles – a big journey for a small creature.

Bluefin tuna



- Bluefin tuna are ocean speedsters, reaching up to 40 miles per hour for short bursts!
- After disappearing from UK waters for decades, they're now making a comeback.
- These powerful fish migrate huge distances from the UK to the Mediterranean to spawn.

Arctic tern



- Arctic terns make the longest migration of any animal on Earth, up to 59,000 miles each year!
- They fly from the Arctic and subarctic (including the UK) to the Antarctic and back again.
- Over a lifetime, they can fly the same distance as going to the moon and back multiple times.

Limpet

- Limpets may not travel far, but they always return to the exact same spot on a rock.
- They follow their own slime trail to find their way home!
- Over time, they grind a 'home scar' into the rock for a perfect fit.



Atlantic salmon



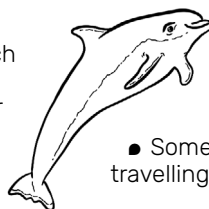
- Atlantic salmon travel thousands of miles at sea before returning to the exact river where they were born.
- They leap over waterfalls and obstacles to reach their breeding grounds.
- These fish connect rivers and seas, and their journey shows how connected our waters are.

Manx shearwater



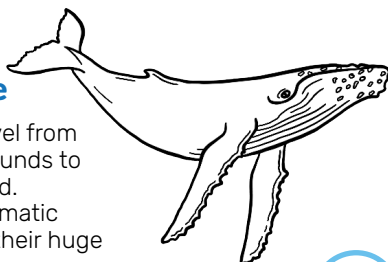
- Manx shearwaters fly up to 10,000 km each year on their incredible migration.
- They return to the exact same burrow year after year to raise a single chick.
- Some have flown over 5 million miles in their lifetime!

Bottlenose dolphin



- Bottlenose dolphins live in social groups called pods and love to leap and play.
- Each dolphin can be identified by unique marks on its dorsal fin, like a fingerprint.
- Some UK dolphins are expanding their range and travelling further than ever before.

Humpback whale



- Humpback whales travel from cold Arctic feeding grounds to warmer waters to breed.
- They're famous for dramatic breaches – launching their huge bodies out of the sea!
- Some whales visiting the UK return year after year.

Grey seals



- Around 95% of Europe's grey seals live around the UK – making our coasts vital for them.
- They can travel hundreds of miles across the sea.
- Scientists track them by identifying unique markings on individuals, and sometimes using special tags.