

Animal journeys

Many animals, both great and small, make incredible journeys.

Some, like reindeer, migrate to find food. Others, like Christmas Island red crabs, travel to find the right environment for the next generation to survive in.

Animals make journeys in water, by air, across arid deserts and over freezing pack ice. In *Animazes* you can follow the migrations of 14 very different creatures.

Can you find a safe path for every one?

How to use this book

Each maze in *Animazes* has a safe path to follow (as well as a few perilous dead ends. Be careful!). Trace the animal's journey with your finger and learn all sorts of fascinating facts along the way.

The beginning of each maze is marked with a start flag.

The end of each maze is marked with a finish flag.

In *Animazes* you will meet . . .

Christmas Island Red Crabs
Bright red crustaceans that scuttle to the sea to lay their eggs.

Reindeer
Vast herds of reindeer migrate to the Arctic tundra in summer.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds
Tea-cup-sized birds that make a dangerous journey over the Gulf of Mexico.

Polar Bears
Polar bears migrate to follow their food source – seals – which swim amongst moving pack ice.

Sockeye Salmon
These champion swimmers swarm in rivers and can even jump up waterfalls!

Wildebeest
Huge herds of these creatures kick up the dust as they gallop across East Africa.

Monarch Butterflies
One hundred million of these butterflies fly south to California and Mexico every winter.

Straw-coloured Fruit Bats
These bats swoop through Africa's midnight skies to find their favourite food.

Arctic Terns
These intrepid birds fly from the Arctic to Antarctica . . . and back again, every year.

Humpback Whales
These mammals swim thousands of miles to give birth to their calves in the warm seas near the equator.

Mali Elephants
These elephants travel to find water in the northwest Sahara Desert.

Alpine Ibexes
Acrobatic ibexes are cliff-hopping goats that migrate up mountains in summer.

Rockhopper Penguins
These nimble penguins scale sheer cliffs to find a safe place for their eggs.

Antarctic Krill
Tiny shrimp-like creatures, krill are an important food source for many animals.

Christmas Island Red Crabs

Christmas Island, in the Indian Ocean, is home to one of the most colourful migrations in the world. Every rainy season, the island's 40–50 million red crabs journey from the central rainforests to the coast where they mate and lay their eggs.

Migration begins when the monsoon rains arrive in around November.

The phase of the moon is important for red crab migration. Female crabs release eggs during the last quarter of the moon when the difference between high and low tides is smallest and they are less likely to be washed away.

Can you find the red crabs' path to the sea?

The migration back to the rainforest takes young crabs around 9 days.

Crabs require moisture to survive. They stop migrating if the rains stop.

Male crabs begin the journey first. Females join slightly later.

Cars are a major hazard to red crabs. Some roads on the island even have crab tunnels underneath.

It takes adult crabs around a week to get to the coast.

Four weeks after the eggs hatch, tiny crabs with shells of 5mm (0.2in) emerge from the sea.

Can you follow the baby crabs back to the rainforest?

As soon as the crabs get to the sea they dip in the water to replenish fluids and salts.

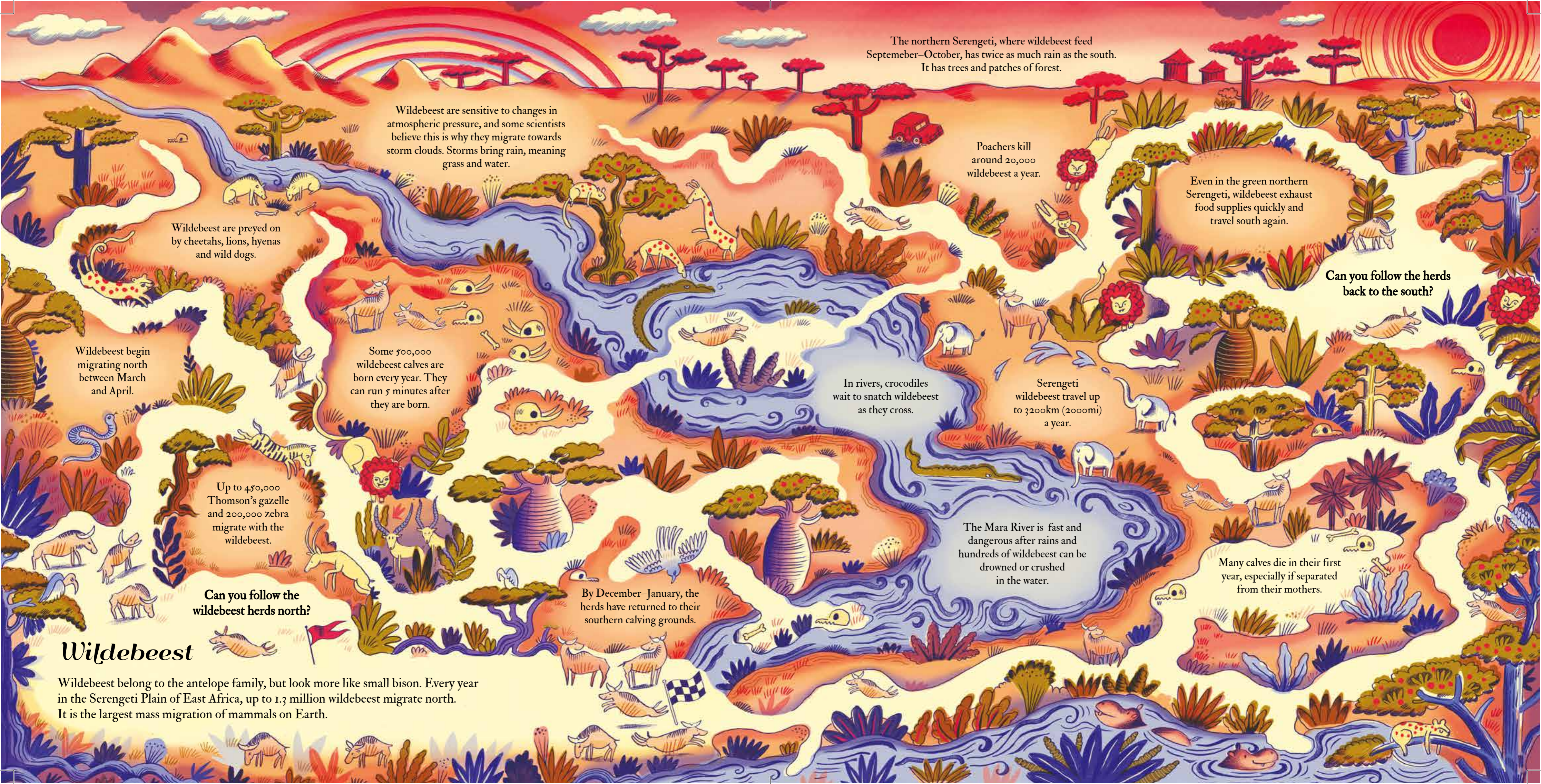
The crabs mate in burrows near the coast. Males then return to the rainforests. Females wait 12–14 days until their eggs are ready.

Female crabs stand on low cliffs and vibrate their bodies to flick their eggs into the sea. One crab can produce up to 100,000 eggs.

Christmas Island is surrounded by tall cliffs. Crabs can climb these steep surfaces.

The eggs hatch into larvae, which go through several shrimp-like growth stages before they become tiny crabs.

The larvae are a feast for predators like whale sharks. Millions are eaten and some years very few survive.



The northern Serengeti, where wildebeest feed September–October, has twice as much rain as the south. It has trees and patches of forest.

Wildebeest are sensitive to changes in atmospheric pressure, and some scientists believe this is why they migrate towards storm clouds. Storms bring rain, meaning grass and water.

Poachers kill around 20,000 wildebeest a year.

Even in the green northern Serengeti, wildebeest exhaust food supplies quickly and travel south again.

Wildebeest are preyed on by cheetahs, lions, hyenas and wild dogs.

Can you follow the herds back to the south?

Wildebeest begin migrating north between March and April.

Some 500,000 wildebeest calves are born every year. They can run 5 minutes after they are born.

In rivers, crocodiles wait to snatch wildebeest as they cross.

Serengeti wildebeest travel up to 3200km (2000mi) a year.

Up to 450,000 Thomson's gazelle and 200,000 zebra migrate with the wildebeest.

The Mara River is fast and dangerous after rains and hundreds of wildebeest can be drowned or crushed in the water.

Many calves die in their first year, especially if separated from their mothers.

Can you follow the wildebeest herds north?

By December–January, the herds have returned to their southern calving grounds.

Wildebeest

Wildebeest belong to the antelope family, but look more like small bison. Every year in the Serengeti Plain of East Africa, up to 1.3 million wildebeest migrate north. It is the largest mass migration of mammals on Earth.

Humpback Whales

Humpback whales migrate from the Arctic and Antarctic waters, where they feed, to warm tropical waters where they have their young. Humpbacks can travel up to 9000km (5600mi) in a year – one of the world's longest mammal migrations.

Can you follow the whale to warmer water?

In summer, humpback whales feast on krill in colder waters to build up stores of body fat for their journey.

Humpbacks can eat up to 1.8 tonnes (2 tons) of krill a day.

Whales begin their journey when falling temperatures drive krill to the seabed.

Whales can become tangled in fishing nets or be struck by ships, which may result in injury or death.

In the final stages of the journey, whales eat little until they reach cold waters where krill is plentiful.

For whales, humpbacks are slow swimmers. Their fastest speed is 26kph (16mph), but their average is 3-14kph (2-9mph).

The return journey is especially dangerous. Adult whales are weaker because they have used up body fat reserves.

Orca sometimes attack and kill humpback whales – especially young calves.

Once whales have reached warm waters near the equator, they give birth to their young and mate.

Some whales stop and rest on the return journey. Hervey Bay in eastern Australia is visited by mother whales and calves July–October.

Can you follow the mother whale and calf back to the feeding grounds?



Some nomadic peoples including the Nenets of Siberia migrate with the reindeer.

In May, the reindeer reach the grassy northern tundra, where they feed. They eat up to 5kg (11lb) of food a day.

North American reindeer have some of the longest journeys and may travel 4800km (3000mi) in a year.

All reindeer calves are born in a short, ten-day time period around June. This means that predators can take fewer calves.

Calves can run when they are only a day old.

Migrating reindeer can run as fast as 80kph (50mph).

Some reindeer cross rivers on their journey. These can be dangerous, but reindeer are good swimmers.

Can you follow the reindeer back to their winter range?

From September–October, reindeer begin the journey back to the south.

They travel in single file, standing in each other's hoof prints to avoid deep snow.

Reindeer head north at the beginning of spring, around March or April.

Arctic and grey wolves are the most dangerous predators to reindeer.

Can you follow the reindeer to their summer grazing grounds?

In winter, reindeer live in forests where they eat lichen. They dig this from under the snow with their scooped hooves.

Once the reindeer return to their winter range, the annual migration cycle begins again.

Reindeer calves are also preyed on by golden eagles and bears.

Reindeer

Reindeer can be found in the northern regions of Europe, Russia and North America (where they are known as caribou). Every spring they migrate north to the meadows of the Arctic tundra where they feast on the nutritious new grasses that grow when winter snow melts.