Cause and Effect

Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

Why Some Birds Fly South

Every fall, millions of birds leave their summer homes. Many fly hundreds of miles south. This long trip is called migration. Why do birds make such a hard journey?

The main reason is food. In summer, northern places are full of seeds, berries, and fresh plants. But when winter comes, the ground freezes and snow covers the plants. Because food becomes hard to find, many birds head to warmer places.

Shorter days help birds know it is time to go. As daylight drops, birds start to feel restless. They hop and flutter more than usual. They eat extra food and store it as fat. This fat gives them energy for the long flight.

Weather matters too. Many birds wait for a strong wind blowing south. A good tailwind pushes them along, so they use less energy. Storms can force them to stop and rest.

In spring, the trip happens in reverse. The north warms up, and plants grow again. Days grow longer. So the birds fly back to build nests and raise their chicks. Long summer days give parents many hours to gather food.

Not every bird migrates. Chickadees and cardinals stay all winter. They find seeds that stay on plants, and they visit bird feeders. Because they can find food, they do not need to leave.

1. What is the main reason many birds fly south?

   Food becomes hard to find. Storms push them south. The days get too long. They need to build nests.

2. What happens because snow covers the plants in winter?

   Birds build nests for their chicks.

   Birds store food as extra fat.

   Birds wait for a strong tailwind.

   Birds have trouble finding food.

3. What helps birds know it is time to leave?

   shorter days warmer weather full bird feeders longer days

4. Why do birds store fat before they leave?

The fat keeps them warm in the snow.

The fat gives them energy to fly.

The fat helps them build their nests.

The fat makes them feel restless.

5. Why do many birds wait for a wind blowing south?

A south wind means storms are over.

A tailwind helps them use less energy.

The wind blows the snow off the seeds.

The wind tells them the days are shorter.

6. What can a storm cause migrating birds to do?

store more fat fly faster stop and rest turn back north

7. Why do birds fly back north in spring?

Plants grow again, and days are longer.

The south gets too cold in spring.

Their fat runs out in the south.

Storms push them back to the north.

8. Why do cardinals not need to fly south?

They can still find food in winter.

They store more fat than other birds.

They cannot fly very long distances.

They like cold, snowy weather best.

9. What does "restless" mean in "birds start to feel restless"?

tired and sleepy unable to stay still calm and happy hungry for berries

10. In "A good tailwind pushes them along, so they use less energy," which word starts the effect?

less so along good

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

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