

CHAPTER 2: WHERE DO LOONS GO IN WINTER?

CREATE A LOON TRAVEL PLAN

Where do loons go?

Loons sometimes make their way from freshwater lakes to the ocean by “lake hopping”. If it’s a long way, they will need to stop to feed and rest along the way. Use the [map of Maine](#) to create a possible migration route for a loon. What might make good staging areas? How far could a loon travel in a day? How much longer would it take a loon from northern New York to travel to the ocean compared to a loon from northern Maine?

THE INCREDIBLE LOON JOURNEY BOARD GAME

What are the challenges faced during loon migration?

Setting: Classroom with some room to move around.

Group Size: Game should be played in groups of approximately 3-4 students.

Materials:

Copy of [game board](#) for each group

Set of [migration challenge cards](#) (photocopy and cut)

Game piece for each player

Die for each group

Activity Introduction:

You have already figured out where loons travel during their annual migration. The trip is not always easy! Let’s brainstorm some of the challenges that a loon may face along their migration route. Make a list on the board.

The Activity

In this game, the students must imagine that they are a young loon migrating for the first time to the ocean. Divide the class into groups of 3-4 students. Go over the following directions with the students:

Directions for The Incredible Loon Journey

1. Each person in the group starts by rolling the die. The person with the lowest number goes first.
2. Roll the die and move the game piece number of spaces. Follow the directions given in that space. Pass the die to the next person.
3. If you land on a Migration Challenge card, follow the directions given on the card.
4. If you do not survive, continue to participate by cheering on your game mates.
5. At the end of the game, count how many of your group survived and how many did not.

At the end of the game, ask the students how many loons survived the migration journey. Do you think that the different scenarios happen in real life?