

## CLASSROOM STUDIES

The following activities have been designed for use in the classroom. They cover various concepts in the biology and ecology of peregrine falcons, raptors in general, as well as exercise in math, science, geography and writing. They were designed to be adaptable to a broad range of age levels, and many of the activities or follow-up questions can easily be modified to meet specific objectives. Students can use this website, or links provided on this site, to obtain detailed information on peregrine falcons as an aid in completing the activities. Format includes an introduction followed by the activities and a series of follow-up questions.

### MIGRATION

*The following activity was developed around the story of a peregrine falcon presented in Focus on a Falcon by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.*

#### Introduction

On April 23<sup>rd</sup> biologists on the southern tip of Texas placed a transmitter on a peregrine falcon and tracked it to its nesting site in central Alaska. The falcon nested in Alaska on May 31<sup>st</sup> and stayed the summer, leaving on September 3<sup>rd</sup> to migrate south to its wintering grounds in Paraguay, South America. The falcon arrived on its wintering grounds on November 21<sup>st</sup>. A good source for maps is: <http://multimedia2.freac.fsu.edu/fga/maps.html>.

#### Migration North to Nest

1. Have your students plot, on a world map, the following locations: (A) The location where the falcon was tagged (southern tip of Texas) and (B) The falcon's nest site (central Alaska).
2. Have your students plot the following locations where the falcon was tracked during its migration north to nest: Kansas, U.S.; Montana, U.S.; British Columbia, Canada; Alaska, U.S. Then have the students draw the migratory path by connecting these locations from Texas north to Alaska.
3. Using the scale on the map, have the students calculate the distance between each of these stops.

#### Have your students answer the following:

- Name each of the states in the U.S. that the falcon traveled through on its journey north.
- How many total miles did the falcon travel to nest?
- How many days did it take the falcon to travel to its nesting site?
- What was the average number of miles the falcon traveled in a single day?
- Why do you think the falcon traveled to Alaska to nest? (hint: use the website to research nesting habitat and food.)

## **Migration South to the Wintering Grounds**

1. Have your students plot the falcon's wintering location (Paraguay, South America) on the world map.
2. Have your students plot the following locations where the falcon was tracked during its migration south to the wintering grounds: Alberta, Canada; Montana, U.S.; Arkansas, U.S.; Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico; Panama; Central America; Brazil, South America; Paraguay, South America. Then have the students draw the migratory path by connecting these locations from Alaska south to Paraguay.
3. Using the scale on the map have your students calculate the distance between each of these stops.

### **Have your students answer the following:**

- Name each of the states in the U.S. that the falcon traveled through on its journey south.
- How many total miles did the falcon travel to the wintering ground?
- How many days did it take the falcon to travel to its wintering ground?
- What was the average number of miles the falcon traveled in a single day?
- Why do you think the falcon traveled to South America to spend the winter?

### **Falcon's Journey**

1. Have your students calculate the total miles the falcon traveled during migrations.
2. Have your students write a story about the falcon's journey. Things that can be included are: What dangers did the falcon face? What did the falcon eat and how did it catch its food? Where did the falcon rest? What were some features of the states or countries that the falcon flew over? What other animals did the falcon encounter?