



Article Guide: The Great Midwestern Salamander Migration

<http://scienceovereverything.com/2018/04/24/great-salamander-migration/>

Part 1: Introduction/A common salamander with an uncommon ability

Directions:

- Read the introduction and the section of the article titled “A common salamander with an uncommon ability”
 - Box vocabulary words or words that you have not seen before
 - Underline in the text where the focus questions are addressed
- Answer each focus question

Focus questions

1. What time of year do salamanders start their migration? Where do they go and for what purpose do they migrate?

2. What sort of behaviors and traits make a mole salamander? Why do they display these behaviors and traits?

3. What threats do salamanders face during their migration?

Part 2: The curious citizen/scientist

Directions:

- Read each understanding question
 - Think about what you would need to know to answer that question
- Read the section of the article titled “The curious citizen/scientist”.
 - Box vocabulary words or words that you have not seen before
- Answer each understanding question

Understanding questions

1. If a vernal pool disappeared due to lack of rain or a new building in the area, how would that affect the salamanders? How could changes to salamander populations affect other parts of the ecosystem?

2. Salamanders are considered indicator species because changes in their population often shadow similar changes through a local ecosystem. If researchers found that there were a declining number of male salamanders in a population, what sort of inferences could they make about salamanders in that area? What kind of inferences could they make about the ecosystem as a whole?

Part 3: Neanderthals today

Directions:

- Read the section of the article titled “Threats”
 - Box vocabulary words or words that you have not seen before
 - Discuss with a partner how you would address the extension questions.
 - Write a response to the extension questions
1. Say you were building a new housing development in a previously wooded area. What sort of precautions could be taken to protect the habitats of species like salamanders? How would you change the layout the development? Would there need to be changes to how the homes are built? If you did make changes would that mean making less money and if so, would you still protect the natural environment? Write your response below and discuss your ideas with a classmate.
