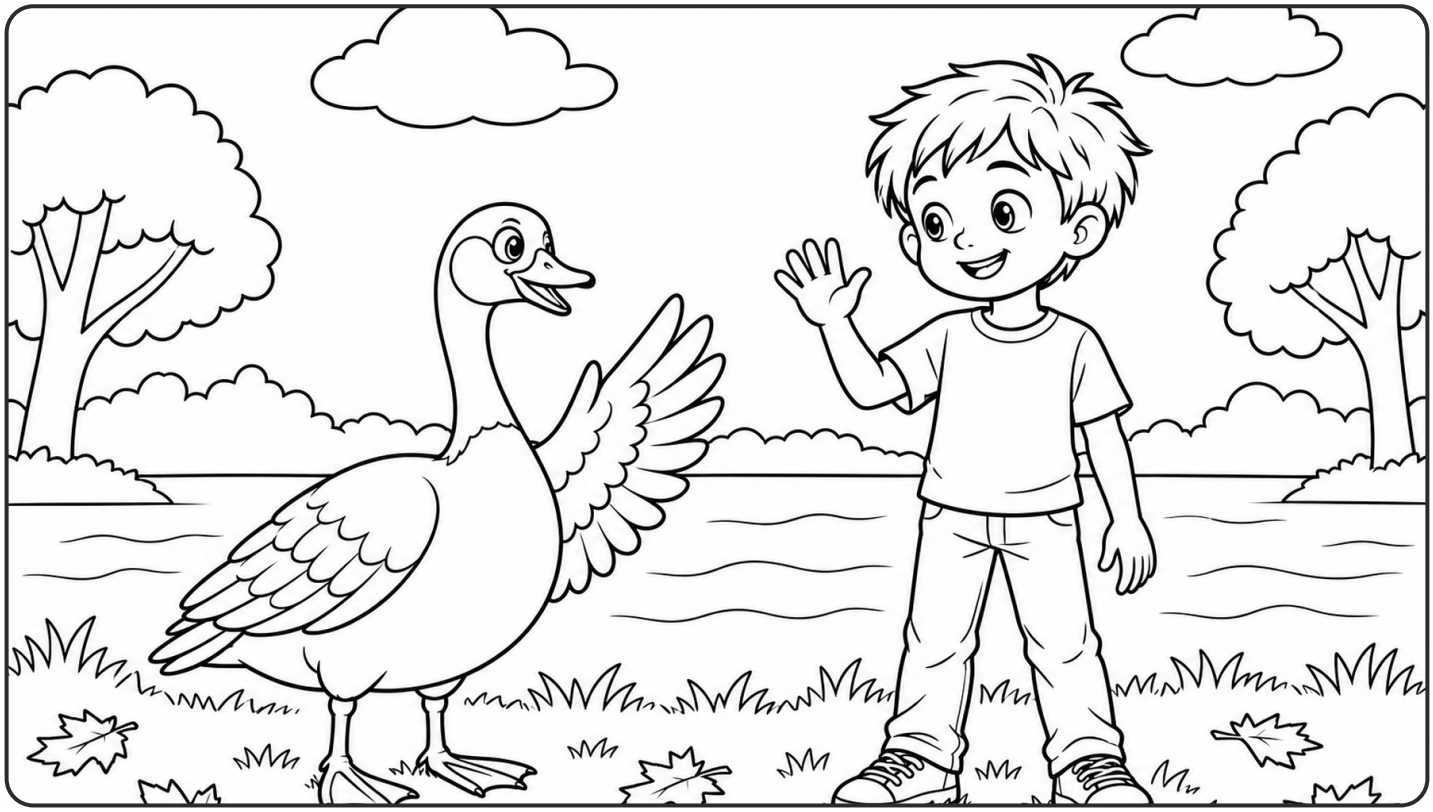
Why do geese fly south in a V?

In the fall, you might see geese flying high in the sky, in the shape of a big letter V. Why do they fly south, and why in a V?



Why?

1. **Winter in the north is hard.**
   Lakes and ponds freeze over, and the grass gets covered with snow, so it's hard to find food. Geese fly south, to places where the water stays open. In the spring, they fly back north. This big trip is called migration.
2. **Each goose helps the goose behind it.**
   When a goose flaps, some air rolls upward behind it, a little to the side. The goose behind flies in just that spot, where the air helps lift it up. It's like getting a little push!
3. **Taking turns at the front.**
   The goose at the very front gets no help at all. So when the leader gets tired, it drops back, and another goose takes a turn at the front. They share the hard work!

Try it! Count the V

You need: a fall day and the sky

1. On a fall day, look up and listen for honking.
2. When you see a V, count the geese on each side.
3. Are the two sides the same length? Does a goose ever change places?

What happened? The geese take turns doing the hardest part. Teamwork!

Video + more questions:
whywhywhykids.com/geese

scan with a grown-up