

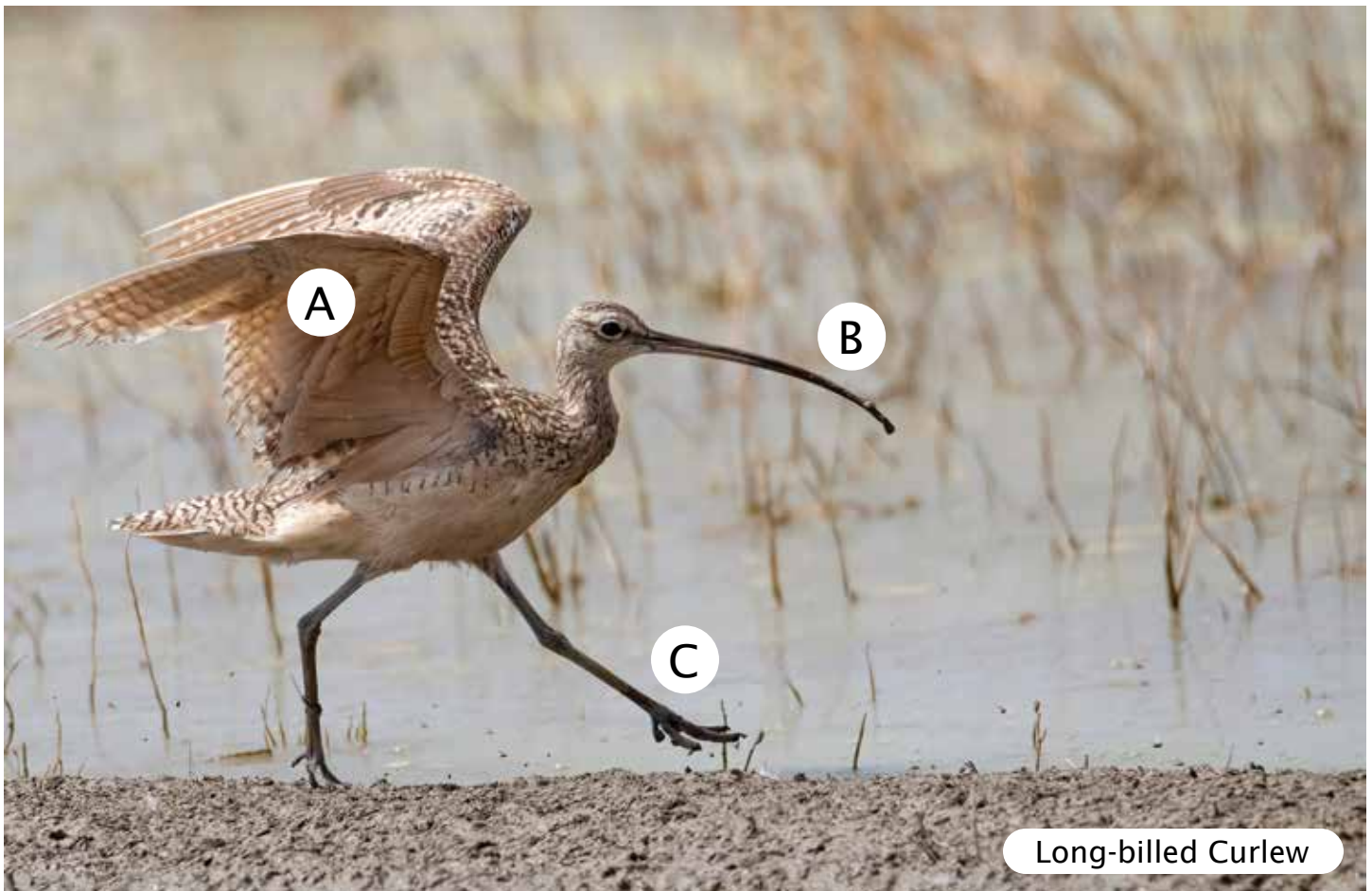
For Creative Minds

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Match the Adaptations

Match the body part adaptation description to the location on the bird.

1. My long, thin toes help me walk and balance in soft sand or mud. My long legs help to keep my body dry when standing in water.
2. My wings help me fly long distances. The colors and patterns of my feathers help me hide in my habitat.
3. I use my bill to dig in water and sand or mud looking for food. Shorebirds have different bill shapes to help them find the right food for each bird.



Answers: 1C; 2A; 3B

Mighty Migrations

Migrating birds use routes between their breeding grounds and their non-breeding homes that they know by instinct. They generally travel through one of three flyways: Atlantic, Midcontinental, or Pacific. When traveling, they will stop to eat and rest at the same beaches, marshes, and grasslands along the way.

Identify the locations the mighty migrators may visit each year.

How far and for how long could you walk without stopping to eat or rest?

Red Knots (Atlantic Flyway) spend our winter (summer there) in Tierra del Fuego on the very southern tip of South America. They stop on a beach in Argentina and then again at the Delaware Bay to eat and rest. They breed in northern Canada and then fly back to Tierra del Fuego.

Buff-Breasted Sandpipers (Midcontinental Flyway) spend our winter (summer there) on natural grasslands of southern South America. They stop to eat and rest in Oklahoma on their way to their breeding grounds in the Arctic Circle, Canada.

Western Sandpipers (Pacific Flyway) spend our winter (summer there) on the Peruvian coast. They make several stops along the way before reaching breeding grounds in Alaska.



Shorebird Nesting

Most shorebirds are ground nesters. They scrape shallow indents in the sand, mud, or rocks to lay their eggs. The eggs are speckled to help to hide (camouflage) them from predators. Describe the different eggs and the nests.



Black Oystercatcher



Killdeer



Piping Plover



Sandpiper

Help or Hurt?

Which of these things do you think helps shorebirds and which do you think could hurt or harm them? Can you describe why? Can you think of ways you can help shorebirds?

1



over development

2



bird sanctuaries

3



pollution

4



marked nesting areas alerting people to avoid the area

Answers: 1: hurt; 2: help, 3: hurt, 4: help