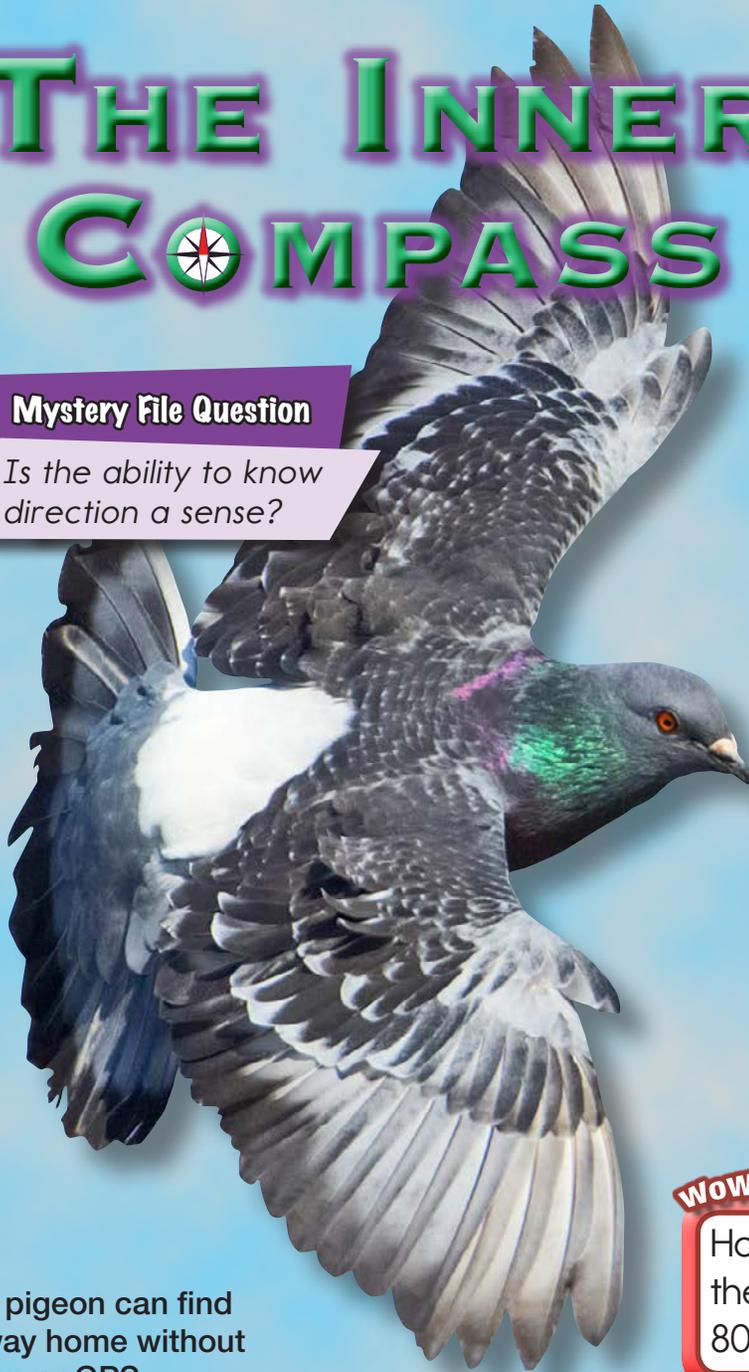


THE INNER COMPASS

Mystery File Question

Is the ability to know direction a sense?



This pigeon can find its way home without a map or GPS.

wowser!

Homing pigeons can find their way home from 80 kilometers (50 mi.) away.

Pigeon Power

What is a homing pigeon (PIH-juhn) good at? Finding its way home! That is what *homing* means.

A homing pigeon has body parts that act like a compass. They help the bird find its way. A compass is a tool with a needle that always points north. Once you know where north is, you can find any direction.

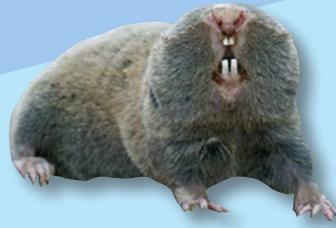
A homing pigeon does not have a *real* compass inside. But it does have metal in its beak. The metal acts like a compass needle. It sends signals to the bird's brain. Then the brain makes meaning of the signals. It tells the bird which way is home.



A compass needle always points north. You can use it to find your way.

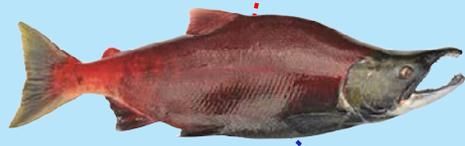
The Right Direction

Birds are not the only animals that know which way to go. Some butterflies, mole rats, and fish also have body parts that act like compasses. These body parts can tell an animal where it is in the world. Animals use that information to find their way home.



mole rat

PACIFIC SALMON KNOW WHERE TO SWIM



salmon

Pacific Ocean

NORTH AMERICA



Pacific salmon are born in rivers. But they spend most of their lives in the ocean. After many years, they go back to where they were born to lay eggs.

Mystery File Response Sheet

Key Question: *What is the same about all senses?*

Details found on all *I.Files*:

_____ T F ?

T = true F = false ? = not sure

Did you circle T (true) for all the details? Yes No

Mystery File Question:

Is the ability to know direction a sense? Yes No

Teacher Instructions: First, have students list the key details found in every *I.File* their group read. Refer to the left side of the **I.Team Evidence** section on their *I.File Response Sheet*. Then have students circle T, F, or ? to indicate whether each detail was true of *the Mystery File*.

Ask students to answer the Yes/No questions. These two answers should match. Finally, have students use the blank lines to answer the Mystery File Question using complete sentences, based solely on what they read.