

Nature Adventures Module: Why do geese fly in a V?

(Highlighted words are found in the Glossary List)

Todd: Ever wonder why Canadian geese fly in a V? And when they do, why is one side of the V longer than the other side of the V?

Terri: Well, I suppose because there are more geese on that side!

Todd: Oh that makes sense, so then why do geese fly in a V formation?

Terri: The answer is really quite simple. It has to do with **aerodynamics** and the conservation of energy.

Todd: The V formation is a very aerodynamic position. It helps break the wind - each goose takes their turn at the front of the V such that they are not constantly breaking the wind. As the other geese rotate to the front the leading goose can phase to the back and conserve energy. The V formation is nature's way of helping geese travel great distances to their breeding and winter **migration** grounds.

Terri: Geese fly an amazing distance each year when they migrate. That requires an amazing amount of energy. Ever notice that geese fly very high up in the sky when migrating? That is because they need to ride the jet stream as best they can to use less energy when traveling great distances.

Todd: Another interesting fact is that Canadian geese tend to be smaller as you move northward; plumage tends to be darker as you move westward.

Terri: Canadian Geese are beautiful birds, and I am sure glad we have an abundance of them here to enjoy!

Source:

<http://shortreedgoosecalls.com/blog/goose-hunting-information/canadian-geese-why-do-they-fly-in-a-v/172>