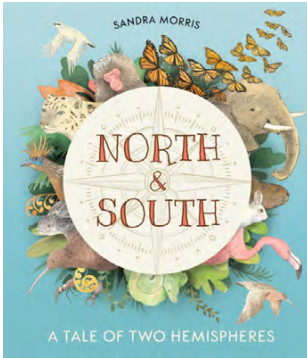




# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## North & South

Author: Sandra Morris  
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\*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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## Outline:

In the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, animals deal with changing seasons in various ways. Whichever hemisphere they live in, they need to be able to read the sign of the changing seasons to survive. This beautiful nonfiction picture book tells the tale of life for some of the planet's most-loved animals and what they're up to throughout the year. Each spread contrasts, month-by-month, some of the world's most-loved Northern and Southern Hemisphere animals. *North and South* marks a beautiful and engaging introduction to the natural world and conservation for young readers, with in-depth facts throughout and a full index and glossary adding interest for older readers.

## Author/Illustrator Information:

Sandra Morris is an author/illustrator from New Zealand and also runs her own illustration agency. She has a Masters in Fine Art. Her first book, *One Lonely Kakapo*, won the 1992 Russell Clark award for illustration. Since then Sandra has gone on to win numerous awards. Her two previous Walker Books titles, *Sensational Survivors* and *A New Zealand Nature Journal*, were both finalists at the New Zealand Book Awards and the LIANZA awards.

## How to Use These Notes:

This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

### These notes are for:

- Primary 2-5
- Ages 7-10

### Key Learning Areas:

- English
- Science

### Example of:

- Picture Book
- Non-fiction

### Themes/Ideas:

- Nature & Environment
- Change
- Animals
- Conservation



# Walker Books Classroom Ideas

## Discussion Questions and Activities:

### Before Reading

View the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:

- The title
- The author
- The illustrator
- The publisher
- The blurb.

What do you think the book might be about from looking at the title only? Do your ideas change after seeing the cover? Write your own story using the title *North and South*.

Consider the subtitle: *A Tale of Two Hemispheres*. What do students already know about animals in the Northern and Southern hemispheres, and how they might be different? Make a list of statements and questions the students may have.

What do students already know about climate change? Make a mind map, and add to it as you read the book.

### Exploring the Text

Is *North and South* an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? Is it a combination of more than one of these types of texts? How can you tell? Who do you think the book was created for?

What is unusual about the way this book is presented? Why do you think the book has been made this way? What effect does it have on you as the reader?

How do you think this book would be different if there were no pictures? What if there were no words?

Choose one month's spread and compare what we learn about the Northern and Southern hemisphere animals featured (for example, a grizzly bear and an eastern quoll in July). How are they similar? How are they different? How do they both relate to the 'theme' of the spread (like "On the Hunt for July")?

*North and South* includes an index at the back of the book. What is the purpose of an index? How do you use it? In what kind of books would you normally find an index? Using the index as a starting point, collect any other words from the book that you don't know the meaning of and create a *North and South* dictionary. You can also collect words and phrases from any further research to add to your dictionary. Illustrate some of the entries to help further explain their meaning.

### Exploring the Illustrations

Look at the colours Sandra Morris has used in *North and South*. Why do you think she chose to use these colours? How do they represent the environment that the animals live in? How do they represent the weather and season in each hemisphere?

Choose a spread and discuss how the page is designed. You could consider the page layout, font choices, image placement, colours used and more. How does the book combine art and information? Do you think this presentation makes for a good reading experience? Why or why not?

### Further Activities

Choose one Northern or Southern hemisphere animal from the book that particularly interested you. Make a list of websites which are useful for learning about your animal. Make sure you consider whether the information each site provides is reliable, who wrote or manages it and how up-to-date it is.

Using your list of websites and your library's resources, do further research on your animal. Create a PowerPoint presentation with all the extra information you've learnt about your animal and present it to the class. You can use the following questions and tasks as a guide:

- Where does the animal live?
- Draw and label a picture of it.
- Draw a diagram showing its life cycle.
- What type of habitat does it have?
- What does it eat and how does it gather food?
- What is its conservation status?
- What are the threats to its survival?
- Why did you choose this animal?

How does your neighbourhood change as the seasons change? How does the changing of the seasons affect the trees, animals and weather? Draw a picture of your backyard in the summer and in the winter, and make a list of the differences.

Write a paragraph about how you react to the changing of the seasons. What behaviours of yours change and why? You could consider what you eat, wear and do at different times of the year, like hot chocolates, scarves and spending more time inside in winter and ice cream, shorts and swimming in summer.



# Walker Books Classroom Ideas

## Discussion Questions and Activities:

The back of the book has some ways you can help to protect endangered animals and combat climate change. Choose one (or more!) of the suggestions and follow it. How did it make you feel? Do you have any other ideas for things you could do to help our wildlife and to reduce the impact of climate change? For more constructive conservation ideas, you could try reading *Kids Fight Climate Change: Act now to be a #2minutesuperhero* by Martin Dorey or *Old Enough to Save the Planet* by Loll Kirby and Adelina Lirius.

Write a book review of *North and South* stating what you liked and disliked about it, who you think would enjoy it the most and whether you think the information provided is credible. Use persuasive language to make the reader understand your opinion.

Deliver a persuasive speech arguing that all primary school students across Australia should study *North and South*. Make sure you explain what the book is about and what Sandra Morris has done well.

Write an imaginative story from the perspective of one of the Northern or Southern hemisphere animals you've learnt about in the book. Use imagery to describe what your character experiences.

Compare *North and South* to a fiction picture book. How is the language different in each? Why have the authors of these texts chosen this language?

Can you find any other picture books in your library about any of the animals featured in *North and South*? For example, Christopher Cheng and Mark Jackson's Nature Storybook *Python* or Jeannie Baker's *Circle* about the Bar Tailed Godwit. What else do you learn about the animal? How are they similar or different to *North and South*?

### Other Great Titles From Walker Books



**Python**  
Christopher Cheng  
Mark Jackson  
9781921529603 HB  
9781742032351 PB

Classroom ideas available



**Kookaburra**  
Claire Saxby  
Tannya Harricks  
9781760651060 HB  
Classroom ideas available



**Desert Lake**  
Pamela Freeman  
Liz Anelli  
9781921529436 HB  
9781760650384 PB  
Classroom ideas available



**Searching for Cicadas**  
Lesley Gibbes  
Judy Watson  
9781922244420 HB  
Classroom ideas available