

Lessons from the Geese

FACT: As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an "up lift" for the bird following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71 % greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

FACT: Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone. It quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the "lifting power" of the bird immediately in front.

FACT: When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies at the point position.

FACT: The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

FACT: When a goose gets sick or wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation to follow him down to help and protect him. They stay with him until he is either able to fly again or dies. Then they launch out on their own with another formation or catch up with their flock.

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