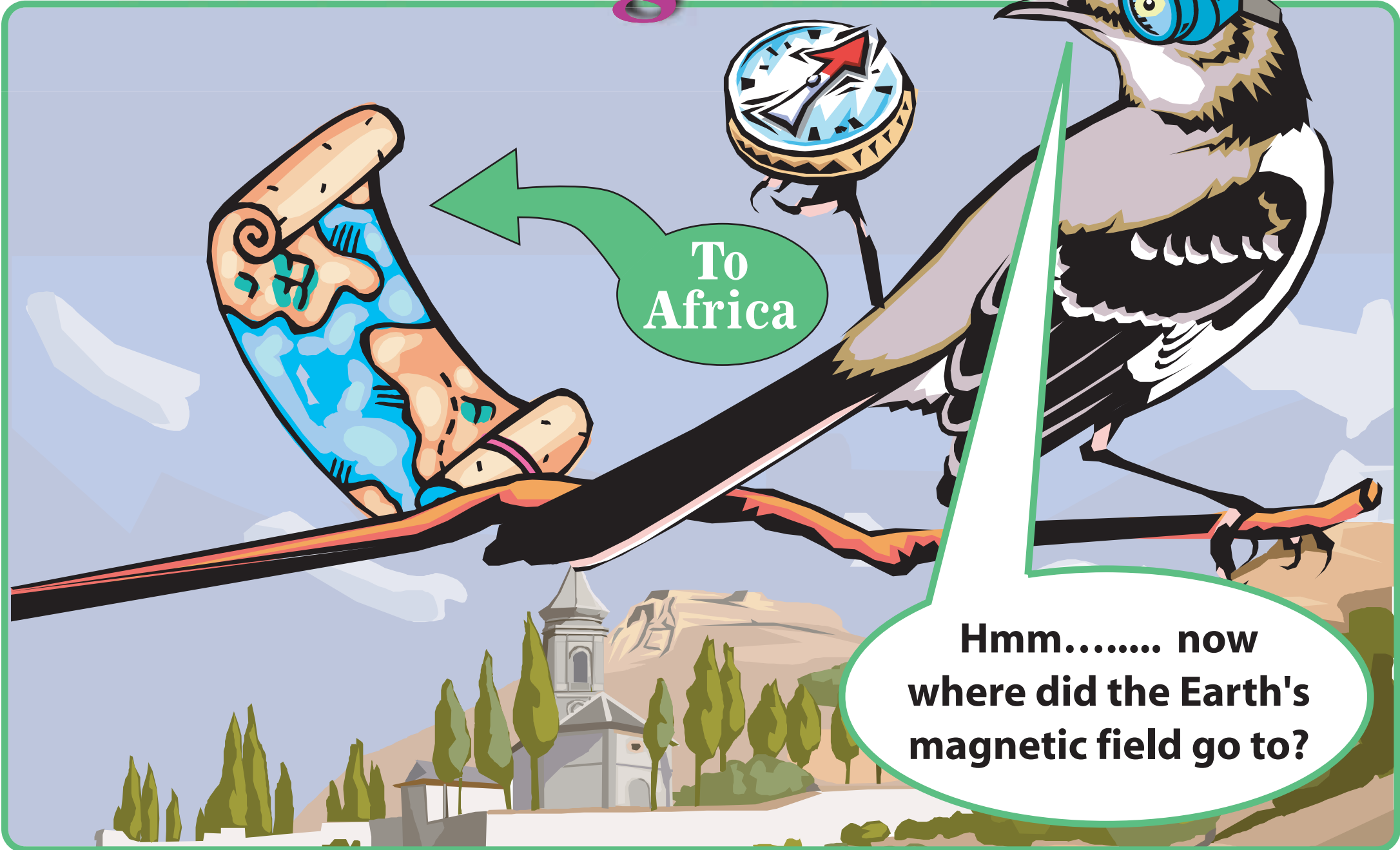
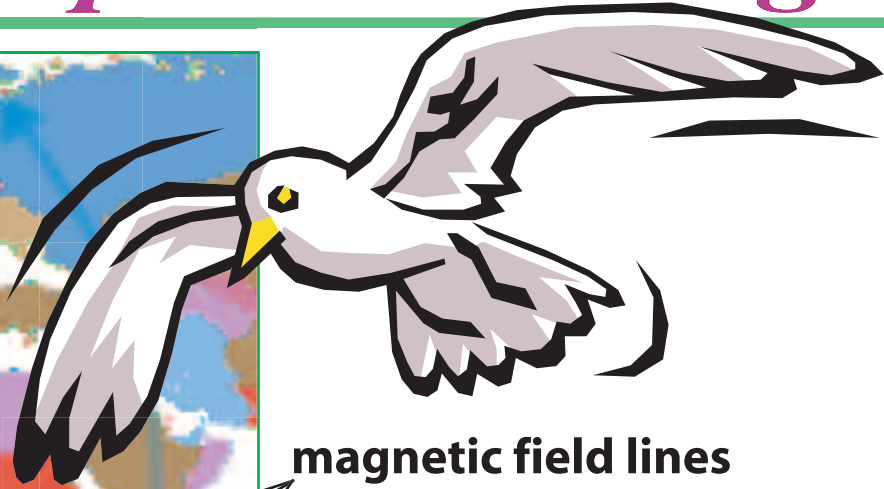
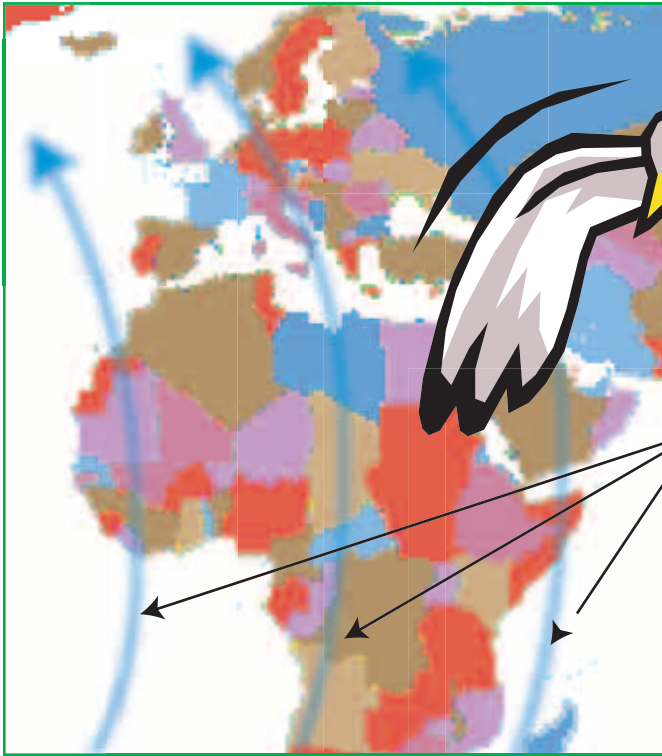


Lost in Migration



According to the latest research, birds can
'see' the Earth's magnetic field
This helps them navigate



magnetic field lines

SCIENCE TODAY

To: Editor

From: Bill Beardy,

Why do so many birds get lost on their migration South?

My theory is that it's because they fly over large steel objects, like bridges.

I think these change the magnetic field that birds use for navigation.

If they go off course, they don't get to their feeding and nesting places.

Note from Editor:

Can you do an experiment to check out this theory?

- ◆ Place a compass on the North side of the table. This is where your bird starts.
- ◆ Put a big piece of steel, like a clamp stand, on the table.
- ◆ Make sure the compass needle stays pointed to the N and S.
- ◆ Slowly move the compass across the table.
- ◆ Keep following the direction of the S – like a bird flying South.
- ◆ See if anything happens to your direction:
 - (a) when the bird is a long way from the steel.
 - (b) when the bird is close to it.

Write a 30 word response to Bill's letter.