

# Little terns at Gronant



## My little tern workbook

### Lesson 1 - Breeding habits of the little tern

The little tern is the smallest tern species you will come across in Britain, about half the size of a common tern and no bigger than the average banana! They have a yellow bill with a small black tip and a distinctive chattering voice. The adults only weigh a little over 50g, as much as a golf ball.

The little tern arrives back in Britain from West Africa at the end of April to breed on sand or shingle beaches, spits or small inshore islands. The beach at Gronant offers a good nesting habitat as it is made up of a perfect mix of shingle and sand.

Introduction to the little tern animation

Find out all about the little tern at Gronant



Breeding animation

Learn about the breeding habits of the little tern



Glossary of helpful words

- i. Pair A male and female who come together to mate, build a nest and rear their young.
- ii. Clutch All the eggs in one nest.
- iii. Chick A baby tern covered in downy fur rather than feathers. It can't fly or find food and is dependent on its parents.
- iv. Fledgling A young bird (like a teenager) that has grown its first coat of feathers and is turning from a chick into a young adult, starting to fly and feed itself.
- v. Incubation When parent birds sit on the nest to keep the eggs safe and at the right temperature to develop into chicks. The little terns incubate their eggs for 21 days.



Little terns are no bigger than the average banana!

Little tern breeding data table

Here is a table of information taken about little terns over three years. The table includes information about how many breeding pairs there are each year, how many fledglings, how many nests and how many eggs hatched.

Breeding data table			
The number of	2019	2018	2017
Male and female terns (pairs)	162	174	161
Fledglings	206	192	202
Nests	213	295	290
Eggs	527	600	650

Activity 1 - Little tern maths questions

Look at the table above and answer the following questions.

1. Add up the number of pairs for each year. How many pairs are there altogether?

2. Add the number of fledglings in 2019 to the number of nests in 2017. What does it add up to?

3. Subtract the number of eggs laid in 2019 than eggs laid in 2018. What is the difference?

4. Subtract the number of fledglings in 2017 from 2019. What is the difference?

5. What is the mean (number of eggs divided by the total number of nests) clutch size for each year?

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6. What percentage of eggs laid produced chicks that successfully fledged into young adults?

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7. Multiply the number of pairs recorded in 2019 by the number of pairs recorded in 2017.

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**Activity 2 - Bar chart activity**

Use your graph paper and the above data table to plot your bar charts.

Make sure that after your teacher has explained what to do, your group also **reads and understands the following instructions.**

- 1. Work as a team in groups of four and discuss your work with each other.
- 2. Don't forget to name your team!
- 3. Record what your group is doing to share with the class at the end.
- 4. Decide on roles for yourselves e.g. graph plotters, timekeeper, recorder, speaker.
- 5. Don't forget to label your charts and give them a title.
- 6. Each member of the group of four chooses one of the categories to plot as their bar chart. Write the name of each person here, next to their category.

Pairs .....

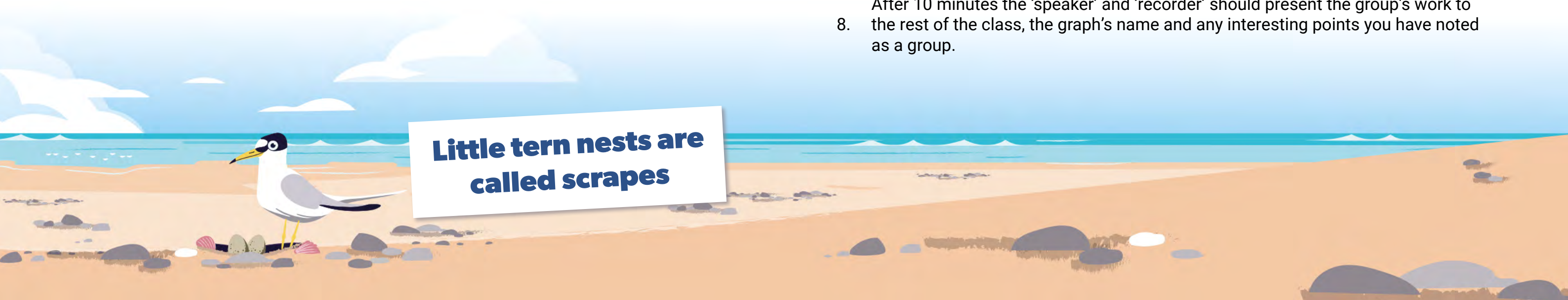
Fledglings .....

Nests .....

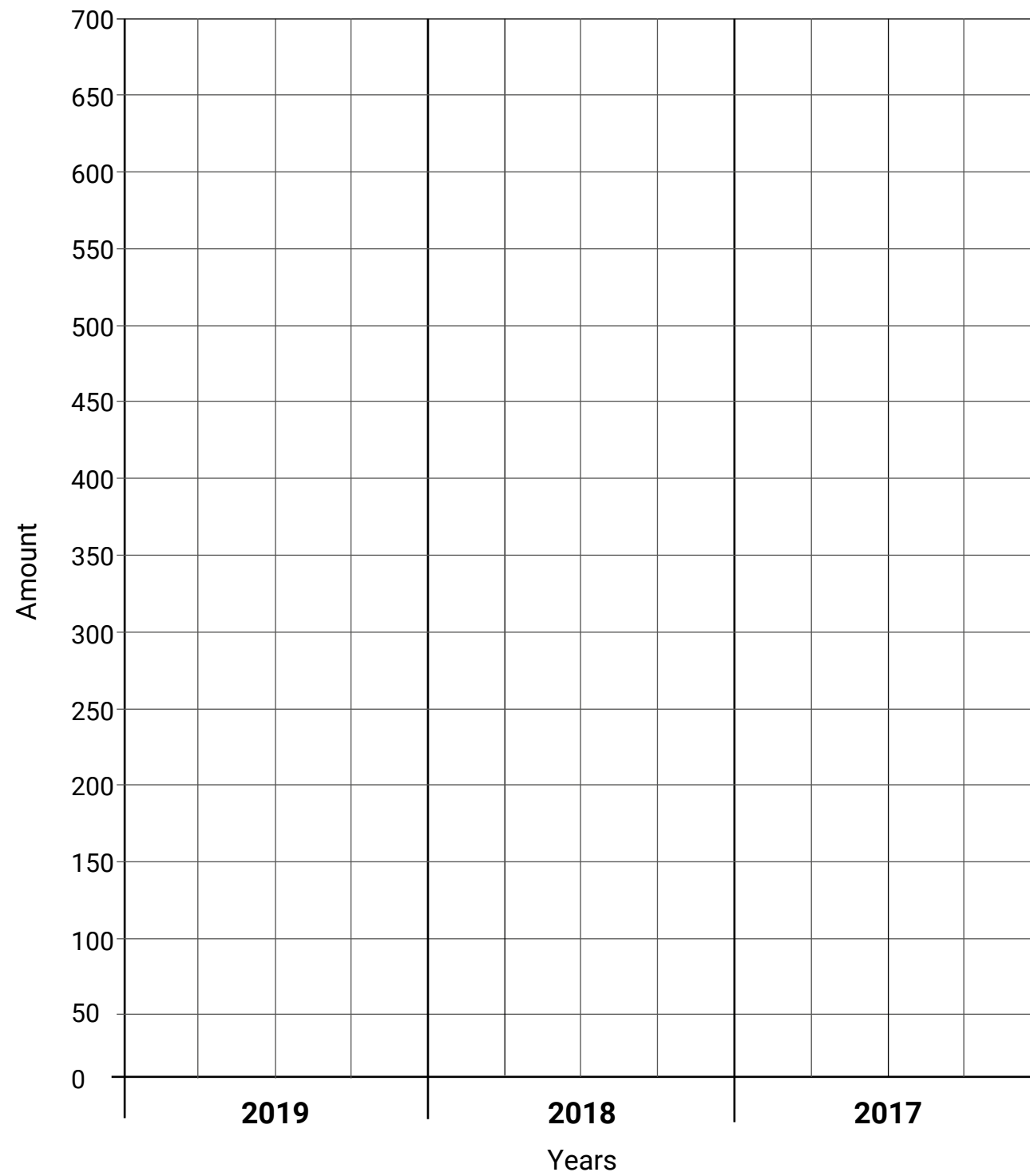
Eggs .....

- 7. Compare your charts and answer the questions.

8. After 10 minutes the 'speaker' and 'recorder' should present the group's work to the rest of the class, the graph's name and any interesting points you have noted as a group.



Title:



## Bonus questions!

Here are some extra questions that you can finish at the end of the lesson or at home.

1. What is 50% of the number of fledglings in 2017, 2018 and 2019?  
Show your working out and mark them on the graph in a different colour.

[illegible]

2. What is  $\frac{2}{3}$  (two thirds) of the number of eggs laid in 2018?

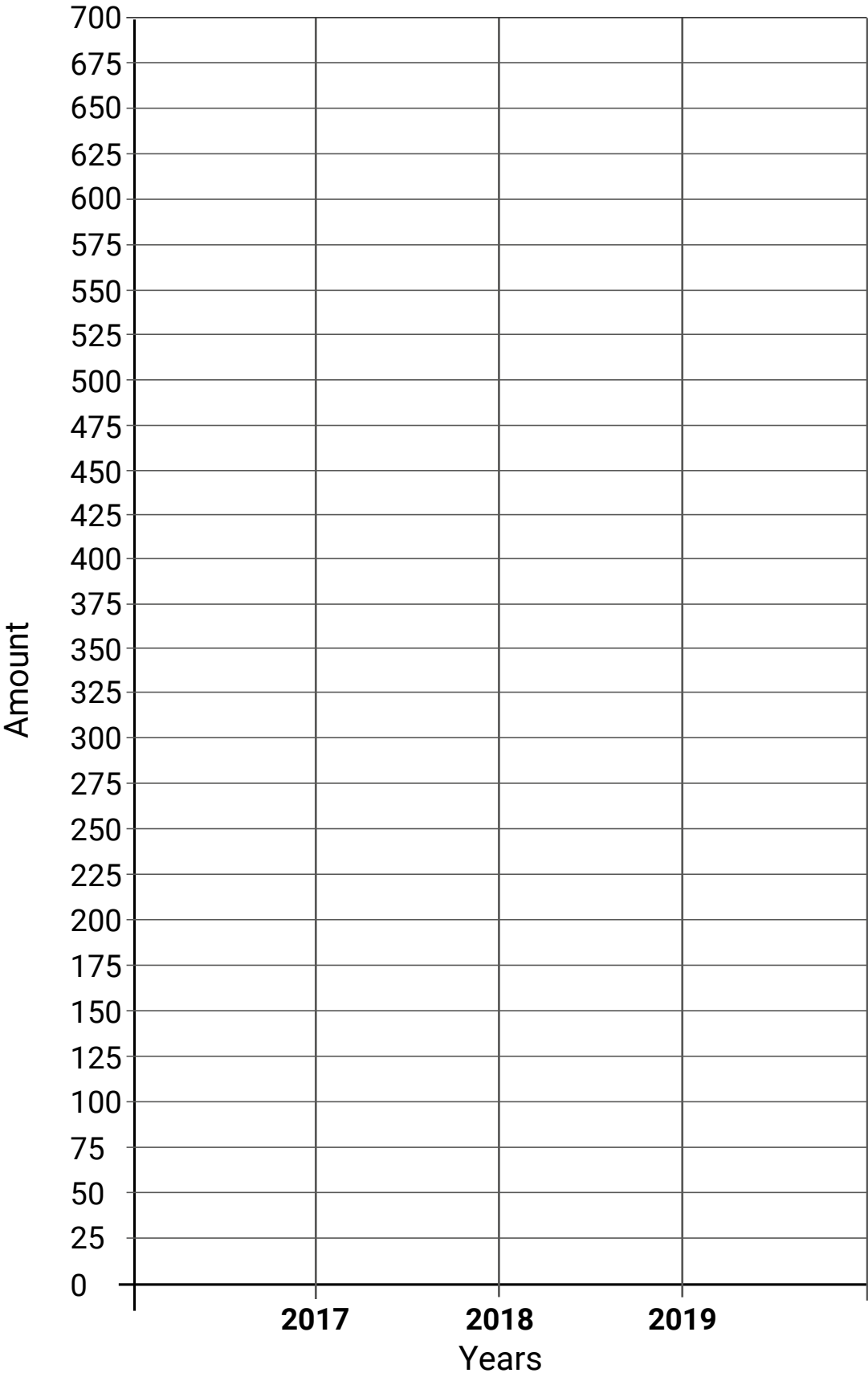
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Line graph instructions

When you have finished and presented your bar charts, follow the same process to plot line graphs for each data set. i.e. pairs, eggs, nests and fledglings. Use your graph paper and the data table to plot your line graphs, and use the results to answer the final questions.

Title:



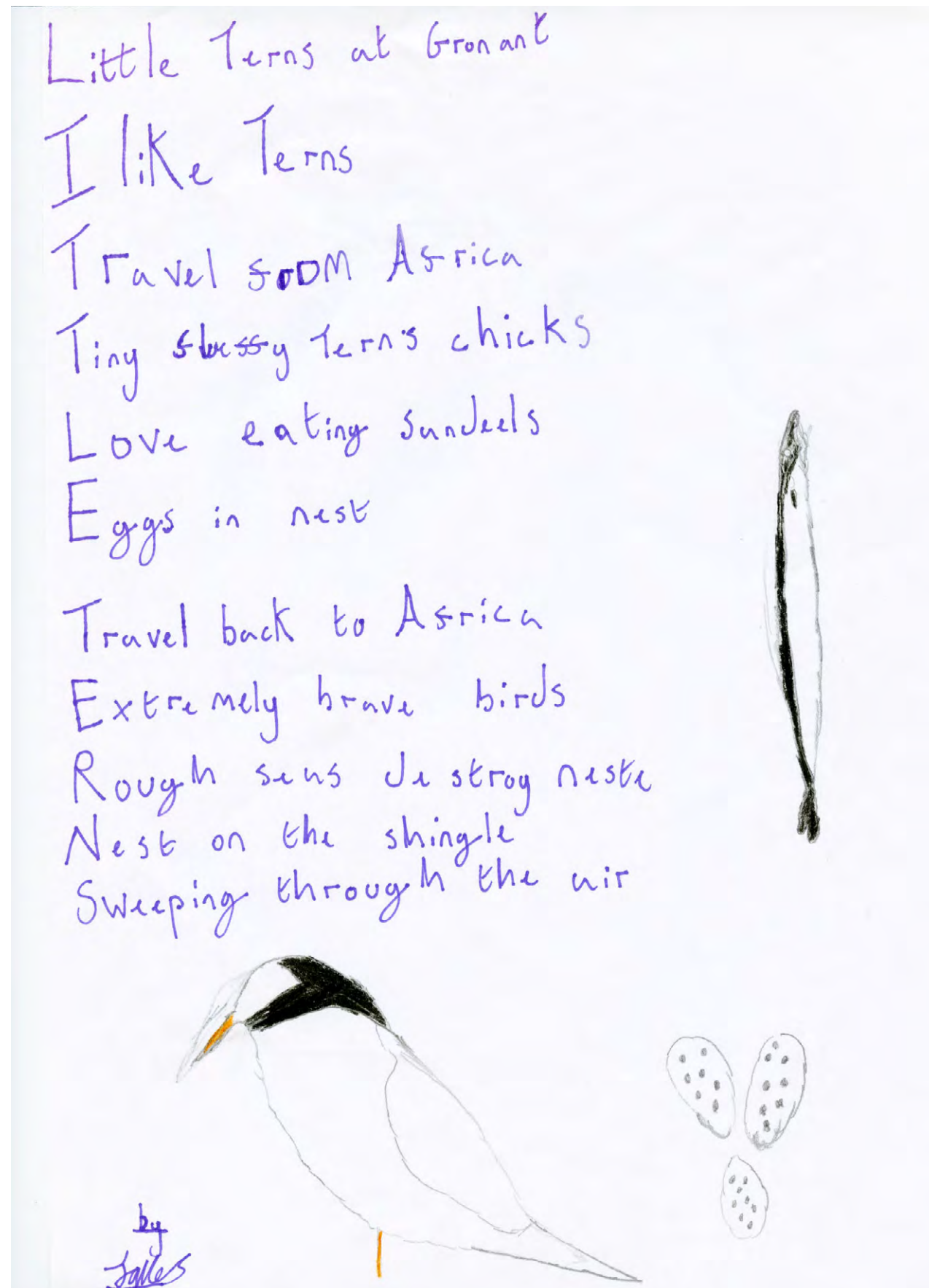
Line graph questions

- 1. In what year were the least number eggs laid? .....
- 2. What is the mean number of nests over the three years? .....
- 3. What year was the greatest number of fledglings recorded? .....
- 4. What year are the greatest number of pairs recorded? .....



### Activity 3 - Little tern poem

This is an acrostic poem, written by James from Ysgol Gronant.  
He wrote it after visiting the little tern colony and seeing the terns in their environment.



### Question?

What is an acrostic poem?

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### Work with a partner or on your own, to create a poem about the little tern.

Think about what kind of poem you will write. Here are some questions to consider:

1. Will it be an acrostic poem made from the name little tern like James's?
2. Will your poem rhyme?
3. Will it be a Haiku?  
*A Haiku is a poem made of three lines. The first and third lines have five syllables. The second line must have seven syllables.*
4. Will your poem be about one little tern or the whole colony?
5. Will you name your little tern?
6. Will your poem have more than one verse?

Make sure that after your teacher has explained what to do, you **read and understand the following instructions:**

1. Work alone or, if in a pair, discuss your work with each other.
2. If you are in a pair, decide who will write and who will illustrate the poem, or if you will both do it.
3. If you are in a pair, decide who will read the poem to the class at the end and who will show the illustrations.
4. Consider the questions above and plan your poem. What is it going to be about? Think about how descriptive you can be in your poem.
5. Don't forget to give it a title.
6. At the end of the session, you should read out the poem to the class and show the illustrations you have done. Listen to how different everyone's poems are.



**Title:**

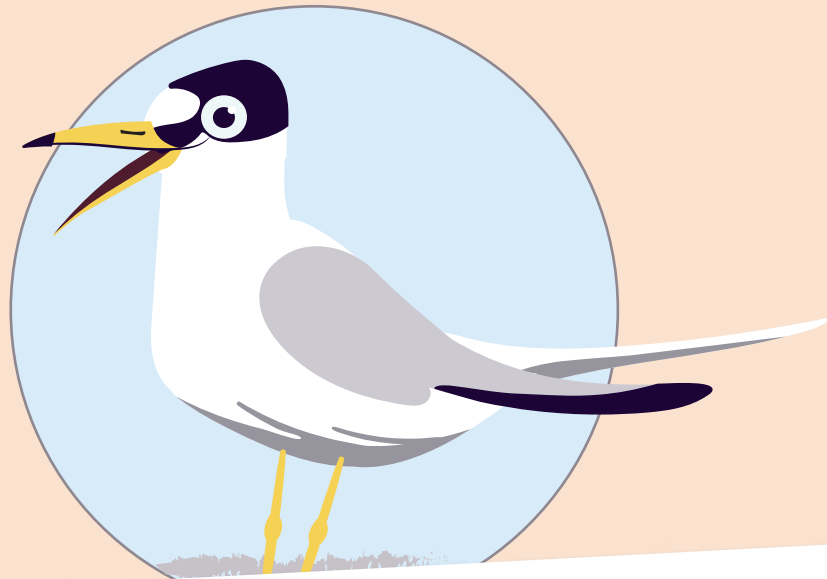


**Well done!**

## Notes



# Little terns at Gronant



**Visit our website at  
[littleterns.denbighshirecountryside.org.uk](http://littleterns.denbighshirecountryside.org.uk)  
to find out more about the little terns at Gronant**