

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?

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

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

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

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Activity 2 - Bar chart activity

Use your graph paper and the data table from activity 1 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 graph and give it 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

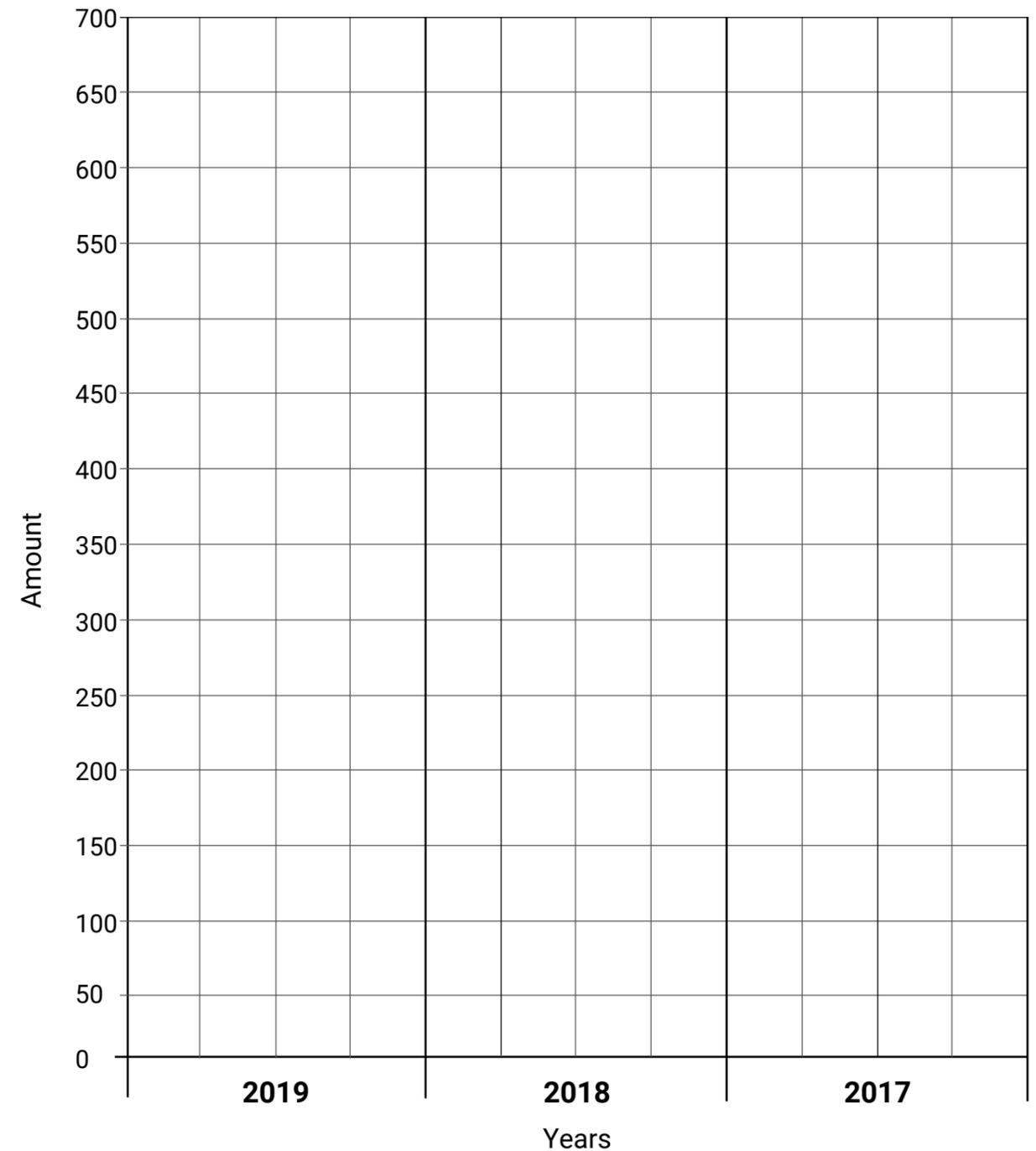
Eggs

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:



Questions

1. Which year was the most successful breeding year?
2. Why do you think that might be?
3. What do you think might affect successful breeding?

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Visit our website at
littleterns.denbighshirecountryside.org.uk
to find out more about the little terns at Gronant