

Little terns at Gronant



Little tern teachers' notes

Lesson 3 - Conservation of the little tern

Teachers notes and activities for lessons about little tern for years 3 - 6, to be paired with the little tern learning pack workbooks for year 3-4 and year 5-6.

For more information on the little tern learning packs, accessible versions or on site activity packs for school visits, please visit littleterns.denbighshirecountryside.org.uk or call 01824 708313. All learning packs are available for download in PDF format and accessible PDF versions.

Breeding habits of the little tern

Key Stage 2

Years 3 and 4

Years 5 and 6

Lesson subjects in the little tern learning packs are:

1. Breeding 2. Predation 3. Conservation

Lesson duration

40-50 minutes

Areas of Learning and Expertise, Curriculum for Wales

Languages, literacy and communication, expressive arts

Statement of what matters:

Languages, literacy and communication

Expressing ourselves through languages is key to communication.

Learners should be given opportunities to speak and write in order to be effective as they interact, explore ideas, express viewpoints, knowledge and understanding and build relationships.

Expressive arts

Learners can explore how the expressive arts can be used to question and challenge viewpoints and be a force for personal and societal change.

Communication includes performing, presenting, sharing, exhibiting and producing with consideration of the audience.

Objectives

By the end of this activity learners will be able to:

- a) Learn why it is important to conserve the little tern
- b) Learn about the different ways the little terns can be conserved

Context

The little tern is the smallest tern species you will come across in Britain, about half the size of a common tern. 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.

Sternula albifrons is the Latin name for the species and it translates as 'white-fronted small tern', an apt description of the forehead pattern and small size of the species in relation to other members of this seabird family. 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 good nesting habitat as it is made up of a perfect mix of shingle and sand.

Since the 1980s, the population of little terns in Britain has declined by 50% due to the development of coastal breeding habitat, human disturbance and high levels of predation. Consequently, many colonies are extensively managed in order to protect little tern numbers across Britain.

Gronant is the only breeding colony of little tern in Wales. Due to hard work by wardens and local volunteers, it has become one of the most successful colonies in the British Isles. Denbighshire Countryside Services, along with the help of dedicated volunteers and bird specialists, construct the protective fencing around the colony, warden the site every day, scare away predators and keep disturbance levels down, talk to visitors and beach users, and ring and monitor the birds to keep a track of what's going on.

Video and animation assets

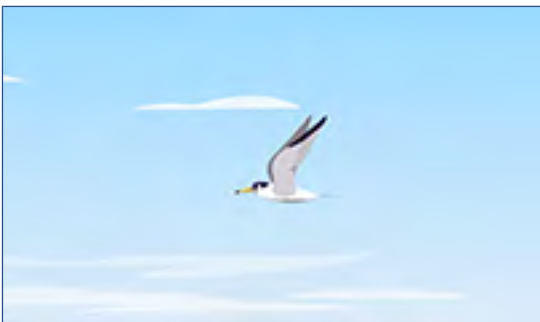
Introduction to the conservation of the little tern video (9 minutes)

Play this video about the conservation of the little tern at Gronant as an introduction to the lesson



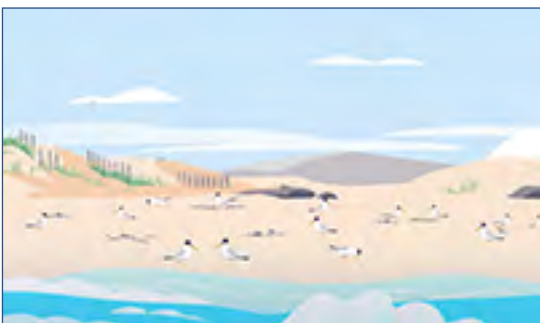
Introduction to the little tern animation (1 minute 23 seconds)

Play this quick explainer animation to learners if they haven't already viewed it in lesson 1.



Conservation animation (1 minute 11 seconds)

Play this animation as an introduction to the lesson's subject: conservation of the little tern.



Glossary of helpful words

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| i. Conservation | The act of protecting and preserving animals, plants and their habitats from extinction and destruction. |
| ii. Conservationist | Somebody who works to conserve wildlife and the environment. |
| iii. Habitat | The natural home of an animal or plant. |
| iv. Colony | A number of birds of the same species that nest or roost in the same site. |
| v. Extinct | When a species of plant or animal no longer exists on the Earth. |
| vi. Endangered species | When a species is likely to become extinct. |

Activity 1 - Writing a letter/article about conservation

Activity duration 60 minutes

Languages, literacy and communication

Use the power point (LittleTern_Conservation.pptx) to explain to learners what conservationists do to protect the little tern. This is also available as a PDF (LittleTern_Conservation_Presentation.PDF) Slides 1-11 will be included in years 3-6 learner workbooks.

Ask learners to consider the following points as you are presenting the slides:

1. Why is conservation so important?
2. What do conservationists do to protect the little tern?
3. What can we do to help protect the little tern?

Powerpoint introduction (10 minutes)

Play through the power point and discuss the information with the class.

Activity 1 - Years 3 and 4

Write a letter to an editor about conservation of the little tern

Activity steps

1. Ask learners to get into groups of four.
2. Using the information learned in the powerpoint, ask learners to discuss:
 - Why is conservation so important?
 - What do conservationists do to protect the little tern?
 - What can we do to help protect the little tern?
3. Ask them to make notes of important points.
4. After the discussion, ask learners to write a letter to the editor of the local newspaper explaining what conservationists do, and why it's important to protect the little tern at Gronant. This can be done as a group or solo activity.
5. Learners can read their letters to the class, show their posters (see Activity 2) and/or complete the green screen extension activity.

Activity 1 - Years 5 and 6

Write a newspaper article about the conservation of the little tern

After presenting the powerpoint, show the learners the link to the newspaper article about conservation of the little tern in the Rhyl Journal (<https://www.rhyljournal.co.uk/news/18559642.gronant-tern-conservation-work-caught-camera/>) and the press release about the little terns at Gronant (available in the IWB resources document).

Activity steps

1. Ask learners to get into groups of four.
2. Ask learners to consider and discuss in their groups the slides in their workbooks, the article and the press release describing the work of the conservationists at Gronant.
3. Ask them to write an article to the newspaper about conservation of the little tern.
4. Ask them to consider the following questions in their article and include at least 3 points about how little terns are being protected.
 1. What is your article headline going to be?
This is a short eye-catching statement that will grab the readers' attention.
 2. Why is the conservation of the little tern so important?
 3. Who conserves the little tern?
 4. What is conservation?
 5. How do the conservationists at Gronant dunes protect the little tern?
 6. What would a conservationist say about how important their work is?
 7. Can you include a quote that a conservationist would say?
5. Learners can set out their article as if in a newspaper and show their posters (see Activity 2) and/or complete the green screen extension activity.

Activity 2 - Design a poster.

Activity duration 40 - 60 minutes

Ask learners to design an eye catching poster for their school to raise awareness and promote the conservation of little terns at Gronant dunes.

Points to consider:

1. What is your headline message?

This should be the main message of the poster: a clear, short message to tell people what you want them to know about the conservation of the little tern.

2. What other important main messages do you want to tell people?

Keep it to just two or three short, clear points. Keep it simple!

3. What is the main image?

It wants to be eye catching and powerful so people look at your poster.

Show the class the below examples and/or ask them to research conservation posters online for ideas.



One of the signs put up to try to raise awareness

When the class have finished, they can display their posters and articles.

Extension activity - Years 3 - 6

Green screen film

Learners can create a short film either reading their letters (years 3 and 4) or presenting their newspaper articles (years 5 and 6).

Activity steps

1. Ask learners to get into their groups of four and decide roles for themselves.
Roles could include director, camera person, actor/presenter, technician/editor
2. Using the equipment available in school the class can create a selection of short films.
3. Learners can use digital flip cameras and iMovie, Windows Movie Maker or any other digital filming equipment and editing packages that the school uses.
4. Ask years 3 and 4 to read their letters and show and explain their posters
4. Ask years 5 and 6 to read their articles and show and explain their posters
5. The group can decide and write down a short running order of who will do what and in what order
6. If using a green screen don't forget to ask the learners not to wear green on the day of the activity, otherwise parts of them will disappear!
7. The class can make their green screen out of green fabric.
8. Learners should decide what image to use as their backdrop
9. Learners can use props and costumes to dress as newsreaders, broadcasters or TV presenters
10. Ask learners to rehearse their films before filming
11. Once learners have finished filming learners can begin the editing process.
12. To edit the films ask learners to plug the camera into the PC and upload/import the movies
13. Learners should upload their chosen background, this could be a newsroom studio, the beach at Gronant dunes or their campaign poster image, onto the edit timeline.
14. The films can be shown in the class or at assembly.

RSPB's Wild Challenge

RSPB's Wild Challenge award scheme provides a perfect framework for learning and is open to all ages and abilities. Encourage your pupils to apply their curriculum knowledge outdoors in nature and support them to develop resilience and agency.

RSPB Wild Challenge is an award programme containing 24 activities which can link to your curriculum learning. You can choose the most relevant activities and each one helps children to connect with and learn through nature. There are bronze, silver and gold awards to achieve depending on how many activities you do.

rspb.org.uk/schoolswildchallenge

You can also find a 'Spot it at the point of Ayr' PDF at littleterns.denbighshirecountryside.org.uk, to use on site visits to Gronant, featuring all the birds that you can see there.



yn rhoi
cartref i
fyd natur

giving
nature
a home

Chwiliwch! Adar yn Y Parlwr Du Spot it! Birds at Point of Ayr



Gylfinir
Curlew



Môr-wennol fechan
Little tern



Corhwyaden
Teal



Glas y dorian
Kingfisher



Pioden y môr
Oystercatcher



Redshank



Pintail



Crëyr bach
Little egret



Corhedydd y waun
Meadow pipit



Hebog tramor
Peregrine



Hwyaden yr eithen
Shelduck

Illustrations by Mike Langman, Chris Shields

Other web resources

Denbighshire Little Tern Project

North Wales Little Tern

North Wales Wildlife Trust

British Trust for Ornithology

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

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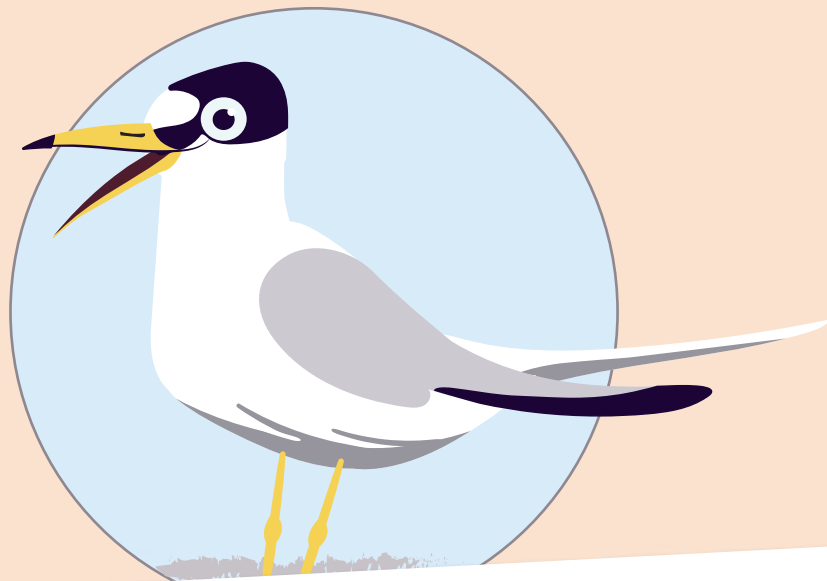
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Welsh Government Digital Compliance Framework

Welsh Government National Literacy and Numeracy Framework Curriculum for Wales

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