

# Little terns presentation

**The breeding success of the little tern is under threat for many reasons.**

**There are three main reasons. They are:**

## **1. Climate change.**

Rising seas

Increased storm events

Coastal flooding and high winds can blow sand and bury eggs and young chicks.

## **2. Disturbance**

Adult terns leave the chick if they are disturbed. An example of this is people walking their dogs near the nests.

## **3. Predation**

The little terns are at risk from predators on the ground and air. These include:

Red fox, kestrel, herring gull, stoat, crow, weasel, peregrine falcon, badger

**We will learn how climate change and disturbance affect the little tern in later lessons. Today's lesson is about predation**

Predation is when one animal, kills another to eat it. The animal that kills the other is called a predator.

The animal that is killed is called the prey.

An animal that eats another animal is called a carnivore or predator. Predators are at the top of the food chain.

Predators aren't being mean!

They need to catch and eat other animals to survive and feed their own babies, so they grow up to be healthy. They are a very important part of the ecosystem as they help manage the whole food chain, keeping the balance in nature.

The little tern has many predators including:

### **Mammals**

For example red foxes, badgers, stoats and weasels.

These mammals use their stealth and speed to kill little terns and their chicks. Foxes are nocturnal, which means they hunt at night. A fox has very good night eyesight, sense of smell and hearing, it can hear a watch ticking 40 yards away.

### **Birds**

For example peregrine falcons, carrion crows, kestrels and herring gulls.

These birds rely on their agility in the air, speed and fantastic eyesight. The birds of prey have sharp talons and hooked beaks which they use to kill and tear their prey into smaller pieces to eat.

However little terns are brave birds and will act together to mob these larger birds in order to protect their chicks.

### **But...**

Little terns are predators too!

They catch small fish, for example sand eels, young herring, shrimps and other invertebrates that live in the shallow sea.

Learn about the dangers facing the little tern: <http://littleterns.denbighshirecountryside.org.uk/>

## **Well done**

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

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