

Little terns: watch out for predators!

My little tern workbook, year 5 and 6

Lesson 2 - Predation 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. They have a yellow bill with a small black tip and a distinctive chattering voice. 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.

Little terns are predated upon by many different animals including foxes, weasels and herring gulls. The wardens, conservationists and volunteers at Gronant have protected the little tern in many clever ways including putting up fences, using diversion and scare tactics, and moving the terns' nests to safer places. Predators also have incredibly amazing skills to prey on little terns, their eggs and chicks.

Introduction to the little tern animation

Find out all about the little tern at Gronant: <http://littleterns.denbighshirecountryside.org.uk/>

Breeding animation

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

Glossary of helpful words

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| 1 | Predator | An animal that eats other animals. |
| 2 | Nocturnal | Animals that are active during the night and sleep by day. |
| 3 | Carnivore | An animal that only eats meat. |

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| 4 | Ecosystem | A community of living organisms that live in a specific environment. |
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Top Fact: Little terns mob predators to protect their chicks

Activity 1 - Little tern predator top trumps

Get into pairs to play this game of top trumps and learn about the biggest, fastest, super-skilled predators that predate the little tern. There are also some fun facts to read about too!.

How to play top trumps?

If you're not sure how to play top trumps watch this video to remind yourself.

Making your top trump cards, you will need:

- Two pieces of cardboard per set of top trump cards and two pieces of paper per set of top trump cards.
- Each piece of A4 cardboard will make four top trump cards.
- Glue.
- Round edged scissors.
- Colouring in pencils or felt tips.

Card making steps

Your teacher may ask you to colour in your top trump cards or you may use the colour cards in your workbook.

1. Colour in your predators, using the illustrations in your workbook or on the whiteboard to help you choose which colours to use.

2. Glue one piece of A4 paper to each piece of cardboard.

3. When your glue has dried cut out your cards.

Or

1. Glue your colour illustrations onto your card.

2. When your glue has dried cut out your cards.

Now you're ready to play!

Predator top trumps

How to play

1. You have 15 minutes to play and win as many times as you can. Winning means when one person wins all the cards in the pack.
2. Keep score by making a mark in your workbook each time you win the pack.
3. Each time you win a hand you can read a fun fact out to your partner.
4. It's important that you remember the facts and statistics as there will be a predation quiz at the end.
5. The term tern killer rating describes the predators that have predated the greatest number of little tern adults, chicks, fledglings and eggs over a three year period, from 2017-2019.

Top Fact: Predators are not bad, I eat my prey so that my young and I can survive. Me and my babies are predated on too.

Activity 2 - Predation quiz!

Let's see how much you can remember about the little tern predators.

You can work on your own or with your partner to answer the following questions.

1. What does nocturnal mean?
2. Name three nocturnal predators that predate little tern?
3. What does the word Badger mean in French?
4. What is the fastest predator on earth?
5. Which bird of prey is known for hovering above its prey before swooping down to catch it?
6. Which predator is thought to be one of the cleverest?
7. Which top trump predator lives the longest?

Top Fact: I'm camouflaged to blend in with the beach so predators can't see me easily.

Extra activity

If you have time at the end of your lesson your teacher will ask you to plot a bar chart using the top trump data.

Well done

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

These lesson plans were created for Denbighshire Countryside Services by Splinter.co.uk, for the Well Connected project and funded by the Welsh Government.