

Little terns: Watch out for predators!



Interactive whiteboard resources

Lesson 2 - Predation of the little tern

Teachers lesson resources.

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.

Interactive whiteboard resources

This document contains links, resources and assets for use in the little tern predation lessons.

Video and animation assets

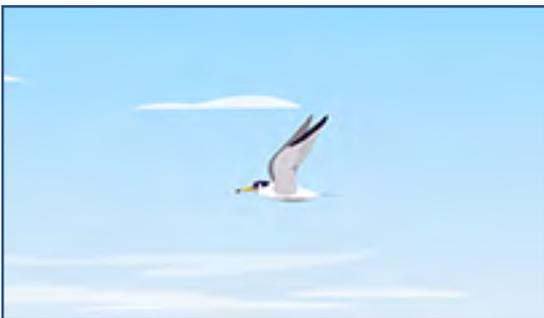
Introduction to the life cycle of the little tern video (5 minutes)

Play this video about the life cycle of the little tern 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.



Predation animation (1 minute 20 seconds)

Play this animation as an introduction to the predation of the little tern.





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**.

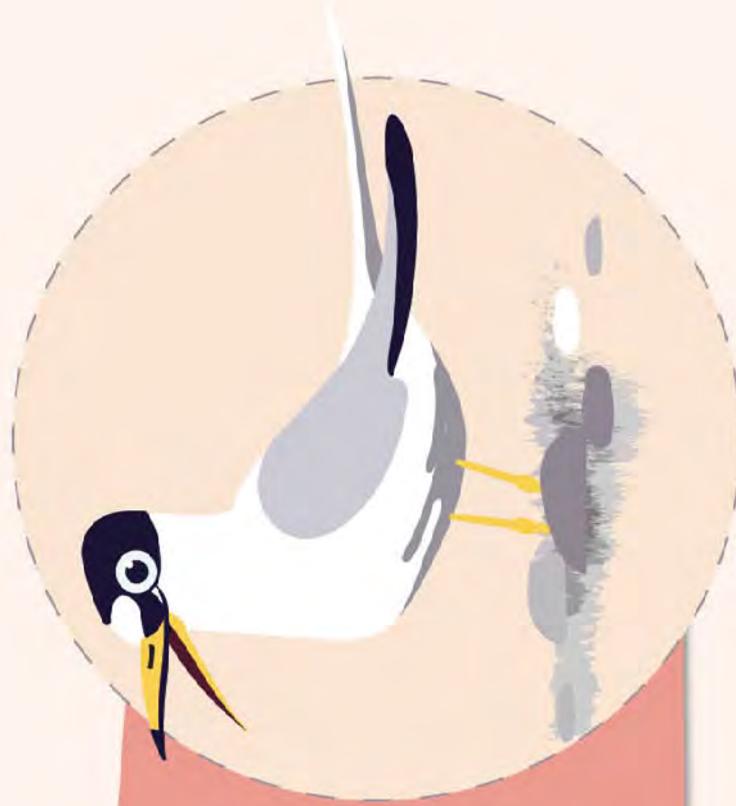


An animal that eats another animal is
called a **CARNIVORE** or **PREDATOR**.

Predators are at the top of the food chain.

We are all carnivores and predators!





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.



Glossary

Glossary of helpful words

- i. Predator The killing of one animal by another for food.
- ii. Nocturnal Animals that are active during the night and sleep by day.
- iii. Carnivore An animal that only eats meat.
- iv. Ecosystem A community of living organisms that live in a specific environment.

Images of little tern predators



Badger



Carrion crow



Kestrel



Peregrine falcon



Red fox



Stoat



Weasel

Top trumps

Top Trumps content

Red fox	5 - 8kg	30 mph	Rate 100	Mammal	Hearing

Fun fact

The fox is the number one killer when it comes to predated the little tern.
 They can squeeze through tiny gaps.
 They are nocturnal, meaning they hunt at night.
 They dig under the fences built to protect the terns to steal their eggs.

Weasel	55 - 130g	15 mph	Rate 80	Mammal	Powerful jaws

Fun fact

Weasels are nocturnal.
 His jaws and canines are like a lions - able to puncture a skull with ease.

Badger	10 - 18kg	16 - 19mph	Rate 65	Mammal	Powerful diggers / strong claws

Fun fact

Badgers are nocturnal.
 The word badger comes from the French word becheur, meaning digger.

Stoat	140 - 445g	20mph	Rate 90	Mammal	Aggression

Fun fact

Stoats are nocturnal.
 Stoats are voracious and aggressive predators that kill their prey with one bite to the back of the neck!

Peregrine falcon	1kg	242mph	Rate 80	Bird	Faster than any other animal

Fun fact

The fastest animal on earth when it dives to catch its prey.
 It is nearly four times the speed of the fastest land animal (the cheetah).

Top Trumps content

Predator	Weight	Speed	Tern killer rating*	Group	Super skill
Carrion crow	370 - 650g	70mph	Rate 90	Bird	Intelligence

Fun fact

The all-black carrion crow is one of the cleverest, most adaptable of our birds.

Kestrel	156 - 252g	38 mph	Rate 95	Bird	Eyesight
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Fun fact

When hunting, the Kestrel will hover before suddenly swooping down to attack its prey. A kestrel can spot a small insect from 50 m away.

Herring gull	690 - 1440g	20 mph	Rate 75	Bird	Bold
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Fun fact

They are long-lived birds and tend to have a lifespan range of 32 to 49 years. They tend to forage for dumping grounds, rubbish heap, leftovers, worms and chicks of birds. They also run off with the eggs and fledglings of other birds.

Top trumps (colour versions)

There are two sets of top trump cards available for you to use.

This colour set can be used for years 5 and 6, if you don't have time for colouring them.

They can be found in the lesson pack as PDFs to print out.



Red fox

1	Weight	5-8kg	Rate 95
2	Speed	30 mph	Rate 80
3	Group	Mammal	
4	Killer rating	100	Rate 100
5	Super skill	Hearing	

Predator Facts!
The fox is the number one killer of the little tern. They are nocturnal, meaning they hunt at night. They can squeeze through tiny gaps to predate the tern eggs and chicks. They can also jump 6ft fences.



Weasel

1	Weight	55 - 130 g	Rate 80
2	Speed	15 mph	Rate 65
3	Group	Mammal	
4	Killer rating	80	Rate 80
5	Super skill	Powerful jaws	

Predator Facts!
The weasel is nocturnal. Weasel jaws and canines are like a lions - able to puncture a skull with ease.



Peregrine falcon

1	Weight	1 kg	Rate 85
2	Speed	242 mph	Rate 100
3	Group	Bird	
4	Killer rating	80	Rate 80
5	Super skill	Faster than any other animal	

Predator Facts!
The fastest animal on earth when it dives to catch its prey. It is nearly four times the speed of the fastest land animal (the cheetah).



Carriion crow

1	Weight	370 - 650 g	Rate 80
2	Speed	70 mph	Rate 90
3	Group	Bird	
4	Killer rating	90	Rate 90
5	Super skill	Intelligence	

Predator Facts!
The all-black carriion crow is one of the cleverest, most adaptable of our birds.



Badger

1	Weight	10 - 18 kg	Rate 100
2	Speed	16 - 19 mph	Rate 70
3	Group	Mammal	
4	Killer rating	65	Rate 65
5	Super skill	Powerful diggers / strong claws	

Predator Facts!
Badgers are nocturnal. The word badger comes from the French word becheur, meaning digger.



Stoat

1	Weight	140 - 445 g	Rate 90
2	Speed	20 mph	Rate 75
3	Group	Mammal	
4	Killer rating	100	Rate 100
5	Super skill	Aggression	

Predator Facts!
The stoat is nocturnal. Stoats are voracious and aggressive predators that kill their prey with one bite to the back of the neck!



Kestrel

1	Weight	156 - 252 g	Rate 70
2	Speed	38 mph	Rate 85
3	Group	Bird	
4	Killer rating	95	Rate 95
5	Super skill	Eyesight	

Predator Facts!
When hunting, the Kestrel will hover before suddenly swooping down to attack its prey. A kestrel can spot a small insect from 50 m away.



Herring gull

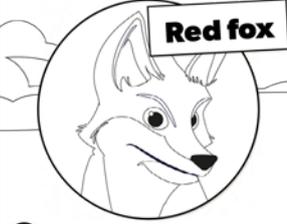
1	Weight	690 - 1440 g	Rate 90
2	Speed	20 mph	Rate 75
3	Group	Bird	
4	Killer rating	75	Rate 75
5	Super skill	Bold	

Predator Facts!
They have a lifespan range of 32 to 49 years. They forage dumping grounds, rubbish heaps, leftovers, worms and chicks of birds. They also run off with the eggs and fledglings of other birds.

Top trumps (outline version)

This outlined set can be used as a colouring activity for years 3 and 4.

They can be found in the lesson pack as PDFs to print out.



Red fox

1 Weight 5-8kg Rate 95
Speed 30 mph Rate 80 2
3 Group Mammal
Killer rating 100 Rate 100 4
5 Super skill Hearing

Predator Facts!
The fox is the number one killer of the little tern. They are nocturnal, meaning they hunt at night. They can squeeze through tiny gaps to predate the tern eggs and chicks. They can also jump 6ft fences.



Weasel

1 Weight 55-130 g Rate 80
Speed 15 mph Rate 65 2
3 Group Mammal
Killer rating 80 Rate 80 4
5 Super skill Powerful jaws

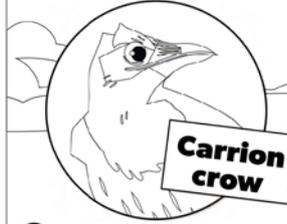
Predator Facts!
The weasel is nocturnal. Weasel jaws and canines are like a lions - able to puncture a skull with ease.



Peregrine falcon

1 Weight 1 kg Rate 85
Speed 242 mph Rate 100 2
3 Group Bird
Killer rating 80 Rate 80 4
5 Super skill Faster than any other animal

Predator Facts!
The fastest animal on earth when it dives to catch its prey. It is nearly four times the speed of the fastest land animal (the cheetah).



Carion crow

1 Weight 370-650g Rate 80
Speed 70 mph Rate 90 2
3 Group Bird
Killer rating 90 Rate 90 4
5 Super skill Intelligence

Predator Facts!
The all-black carion crow is one of the cleverest, most adaptable of our birds.



Badger

1 Weight 10-18 kg Rate 100
Speed 16-19 mph Rate 70 2
3 Group Mammal
Killer rating 65 Rate 65 4
5 Super skill Powerful diggers / strong claws

Predator Facts!
Badgers are nocturnal. The word badger comes from the French word becheur, meaning digger.



Stoat

1 Weight 140-445 g Rate 90
Speed 20 mph Rate 75 2
3 Group Mammal
Killer rating 100 Rate 100 4
5 Super skill Aggression

Predator Facts!
The stoat is nocturnal. Stoats are voracious and aggressive predators that kill their prey with one bite to the back of the neck!



Kestrel

1 Weight 156-252 g Rate 70
Speed 38 mph Rate 85 2
3 Group Bird
Killer rating 95 Rate 95 4
5 Super skill Eyesight

Predator Facts!
When hunting, the Kestrel will hover before suddenly swooping down to attack its prey. A kestrel can spot a small insect from 50 m away.



Herring gull

1 Weight 690-1440g Rate 90
Speed 20 mph Rate 75 2
3 Group Bird
Killer rating 75 Rate 75 4
5 Super skill Bold

Predator Facts!
They have a lifespan range of 32 to 49 years. They forage dumping grounds, rubbish heaps, leftovers, worms and chicks of birds. They also run off with the eggs and fledglings of other birds.

Predator quiz questions

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.

You can peek at your cards if you get stuck.

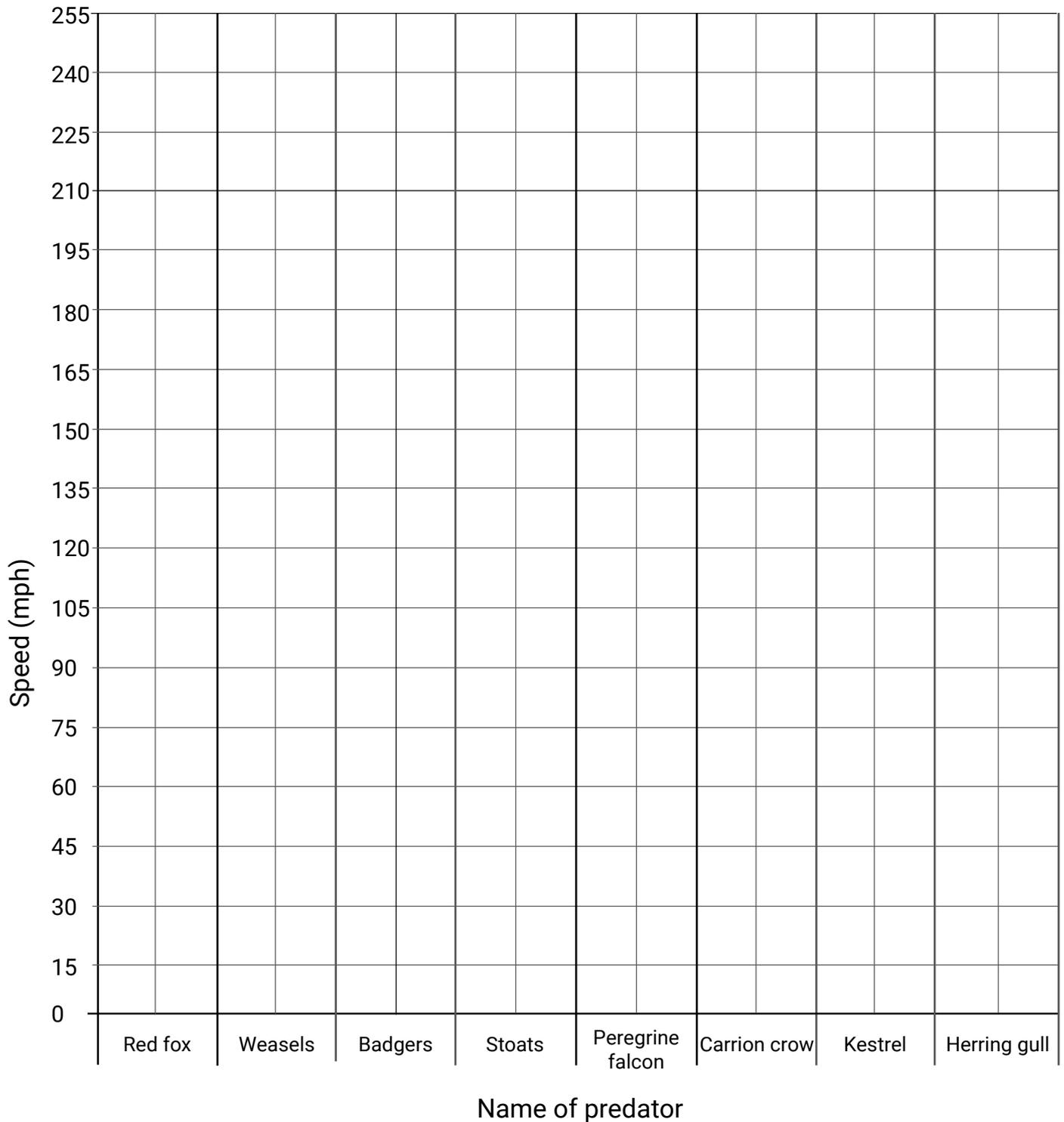
- Q1. What does nocturnal mean?
- Q2. Name three nocturnal predators that predate little tern? (3 points)
- Q3. What does the word Badger mean in French?
- Q4. What is the fastest predator on earth?
- Q5. Which bird of prey is known for hovering above its prey before swooping down to catch it?
- Q6. Which predator is thought to be one of the cleverest?
- Q7. Which top trump predator lives the longest?

Predator quiz answers

Questions		Answers
1.	What does nocturnal mean?	Active at night
2.	Name three nocturnal predators that predate little tern? (3 points)	Red fox, Weasel, Badger, Stoat
3.	What does the word Badger mean in French?	Becheur, meaning digger
4.	What is the fastest predator on earth?	Peregrine falcon
5.	Which bird of prey is known for hovering above its prey before swooping down to catch it?	Kestrel
6.	Which predator is thought to be one of the cleverest?	Carrion crow
7.	Which top trump predator lives the longest?	Herring gull

Extension activity - bar chart

Title:



Other web resources

A-Z Animals

Discover Wildlife

Little Tern Project

National Geographic

Denbighshire Little Tern Project

North Wales Little Tern

North Wales Wildlife Trust

British Trust for Ornithology

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

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

Welsh Government Digital Compliance Framework

Welsh Government National Literacy and Numeracy Framework Curriculum for Wales

Little terns at Gronant



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