



# Match Those Facts

Print off the Match Those Facts Seabirds game.

Remember to only print on one side of the paper and landscape.

Cut out the Seabird pictures and facts.

Now match those pairs - answers below.

For further information about Seabirds or any wildlife around Cornwall, visit Cornwall Wildlife Trust's website.

**Arctic skua** - The Arctic skua is also known as the 'Parasitic Jaeger': parasitic because of its habit of stealing food from other birds, termed kleptoparasitism'; and jaeger - derived from the German word for hunter - because of its predatory nature.

**Arctic tern** - The arctic tern is famed for its aggression towards any that would disturb its nest - it will dive-bomb intruders with its sharp beak. Large, noisy colonies can be found on the Farne Islands and Northern Isles, in particular.

**Black guillemot** - The black guillemot is also known as the 'Tystie' in the Scottish Isles, which was probably derived from the Norse name for the bird.

**Black-headed gull** - The species-specific part of the black-headed gull's Latin name, *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, means 'laughing' and comes from its 'ke-ke-ke' and 'kverarr' calls.

**Shags** - Shags can dive down to depths of up to 45m to catch fish from near the bottom of the sea. Unlike gannets, they dive from the surface of the sea. They also eat crustaceans and molluscs.

**Sandwich tern** - Named after Sandwich Bay in Kent, the sandwich tern is one of three birds to be named after Kent - the others are the Kentish Plover and the Dartford Warbler.

**Cormorant** - In China, tame cormorants are used by fishermen as a traditional method of catching fish. A snare is tied around the bird's throat to stop it swallowing bigger fish (although it can still eat small ones), which are then spit up for the fishermen. In different parts of the world, this practice uses different species of cormorant, but it has mostly now become an activity for the tourist industry.

**Fulmar** - Related to the massive albatross, the fulmar is a gull-like bird that nests on rocky cliff edges. Don't get too close, though - it spits a foul-smelling oil at intruders.

**Great black-backed gull** - The largest of our gulls, the great black-backed gull is thick-set, with a powerful beak and a bullying nature - happy to steal food from other birds. Look out for it at the coast in summer, and inland in winter.



# Match Those Facts

**Great skua** - A fierce pirate of the sea, the great skua is renowned for stealing fish from other seabirds and dive-bombing anyone that comes near its nests. It breeds on the Scottish Isles.

**Guillemot** - Guillemot eggs are very narrow and pointed at one end (pyriform, or pear-shaped). The purpose of this shape is still debated, but one leading theory is that this shape makes them more stable, reducing the risk of them rolling off the perilous cliff ledges where they are laid! Guillemot nesting territories are probably the smallest of any UK bird, extending only a beak's-length around their nest.

**Herring gull** - Swooping in and stealing your chips or ice-cream, the herring gull is the typical 'seagull' of our seaside resorts. A large gull, it is similar in appearance to the Common Gull, but sports a distinctive red spot on its bill.

**Kittiwake** - The kittiwake is our most sea-loving gull, only turning up inland on odd occasions and spending winter out on the Atlantic.

**Lesser black-backed gull** - Until recently, lesser-black backed gulls were only summer visitors to the UK, but now some are resident here all year-round. In the winter, they are joined by birds from Scandinavia, while those of our summer breeding birds that do still migrate spend their winter in Africa.

**Razorbill** - The razorbill's closest relative was the great auk, which became extinct in the UK in 1840 and was last sighted in 1852 off Newfoundland. It was hunted for meat, feathers, fat and oil, and as it became more scarce, was finally driven to extinction by specimen collectors.

**Manx shearwater** - Manx shearwaters are members of a group of birds known as 'tubenoses', or 'petrels', which includes both giant albatrosses and tiny storm petrels. Manx shearwaters can be seen gliding low over the waves, their wings beating in shallow and rapid movements.

**Gannet** - Diving from heights of 30m, they can hit the water at speeds of up to 60mph. They have an extensive network of air-sacs between their muscles and skin to help cushion this impact.

**Puffin** - The puffin is also known as the 'Sea Parrot' due to its brightly coloured bill, which is part of its breeding plumage. The bill is serrated to hold fish in place; one puffin was recorded as having 83 small sandeels in its bill at once!

## Thanks for playing