



# Puffin *Scientific name: Fratercula artica*

## Let me introduce myself...



### Where I live

Out at sea for most of the year, bobbing around in the water in large groups with other puffins. During the summer, I nest on cliffs and islands around the coast of Scotland, northern England, South West England and Wales.



### Favourite food

Sand eels! I catch these small fish by diving and swimming. One puffin has been recorded carrying 83 sand eels in its beak at once!



### Family life

With my lifelong mate, we raise one single chick a year (a puffling). We take it in turn to feed our puffling but leave the nest and return to sea before it flies off all on its own.



### When and where to see me in Yorkshire

May – July at Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's wild and rugged Flamborough Cliffs nature reserve.



### I'm endangered

The climate crisis is causing sea temperatures to rise and the fish I eat are heading northwards to find colder waters. I have to travel further and further to find food and many chicks are going hungry.

With a brightly coloured beak, decorative eye markings and clumsy waddle on land, it's no wonder I'm known as the 'clown of the sea'!



#### A mouthfull!

Spines inside my beak (denticles), allow me to grip onto and carry multiple fish as I swim and fly.

#### Fantastic feathers

I'm fabulous at flying – flapping my wings up to 400 times a minute and speeding through the air up to 88km (55 miles) per hour

#### Brilliant beak

My beak (or bill) changes colour throughout the year. In winter it's grey but during the breeding season it becomes bright and multi-coloured. The more colourful, the more handsome I am!

#### Waterproof feathers

Waterproof feathers allow me to keep warm as I float out at sea or dive underwater.

#### Super swimmer

When swimming, I flap my wings as if I'm flying through the water. I also use my feet to steer.

#### Down time

In winter, I shed my flight feathers. I can't fly again until new ones grow back.

