



# Points for puffins quiz

## Questions



### For puffin fanatics...

1. How many different species of puffin are there in the world?  
Bonus point if you can name them all...
2. What colour is a puffin egg?

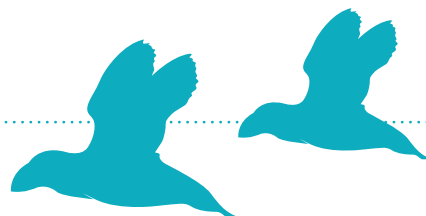
3. Which of the following is not a collective noun for a group of puffins?  
a. A circus of puffins   b. A float of puffins  
c. An improbability of puffins
4. What is a baby puffin called?
5. Which publishing company has a children's range called 'Puffin Books'?



### Are you a puffin prodigy?

6. Legend has it that puffins get their name from their 'puffed up' chicks but what does their scientific name *Fratercula artica* mean in Latin?
7. What illuminating discovery did scientists from the University of Nottingham make about puffin beaks in 2018?

8. Which seabird has the scientific name *Puffinus puffinus*?
9. In Star Wars: Episode VIII The Last Jedi, which mythical creatures are based on puffins?
10. What percentage of the global Atlantic puffin population breeds around the coast of Britain and Ireland?



Bonus  
question:

How can you help puffins and Yorkshire's marine wildlife?



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## Answers



### For puffin fanatics...

1. **Three-** Atlantic puffin, horned puffin and tufted puffin.
2. **White-** Puffins lay one single egg. Both parents take turns incubating it with their brood patch – a patch of featherless skin on their underside that allows heat to be transferred. The egg hatches somewhere between five and eight weeks.
3. **b. A float of puffins-** Just like other species of birds, a group of puffins is known by a variety of names, such as a circus, an improbability, a colony, a burrow and a gathering. The collective noun for birds often stems

from their appearance or a distinctive behaviour, and many date back hundreds of years.

4. **Puffling-** Round fluffy pufflings have grey and black feathers and a dull beak; they grow to full size in about six weeks. The parents leave the nest first leaving the chick to fledge and leap into the sea on its own where it will live, bobbing away, for the next three years.
5. **Penguin-** Penguin Books was founded in 1935. The idea for Puffin Books was hatched in 1939 to create a series of non-fiction picture books for children. The first four books were published in 1940 to help evacuated children in World War II adjust to life in the countryside.



### Are you a puffin prodigy?

6. **Little brother of the North-** The scientific name for puffins dates back to the last half of the 1800s. Little brother alludes to 'little friar', referring to a puffin's black and white plumage which is reminiscent of a friar.
7. **Puffin beaks glow under UV light-** Birds like puffins possess the ability to see not only the red, blue and green light we can see, but also wavelengths at the UV end of the spectrum. This means they can see UV colours in objects humans cannot. Puffins' beaks become more colourful for the breeding season, so scientists think that the 'UV glow' is an adaptation for sexual signalling.

8. **Manx shearwater-** The Latin name *Puffinus puffinus* comes from the Middle Ages, when Manx shearwaters were eaten and known as 'puffins' or 'puffings' due to their plump, fatty bodies. They were named the 'Manx puffin' in 1676. Shearwater didn't appear in the name until around a hundred years later.

9. **Porgs-** When Rian Johnson, director of Star Wars: The Last Jedi, arrived on set on the island of Skellig Michael, he realised that there were thousands of puffins using the island to breed. The puffins couldn't be moved and it was too much work to digitally remove the puffins from every shot, so he asked creature concept designer, Jake Lunt Davies, to create 'puffin people' to replace them. Hence, porgs were created!

10. **10%-** More than 90% of the global population of Atlantic puffins is found in Europe and an astonishing 60% of the global Atlantic puffin population breeds in Iceland.

Bonus  
question:

**How can you help puffins and Yorkshire's marine wildlife?** Discover how you can 'pack up, pick up and picket' for puffins with our Puffin Protector pack. [ywt.org.uk/yorkshire-puffin-festival](http://ywt.org.uk/yorkshire-puffin-festival)