

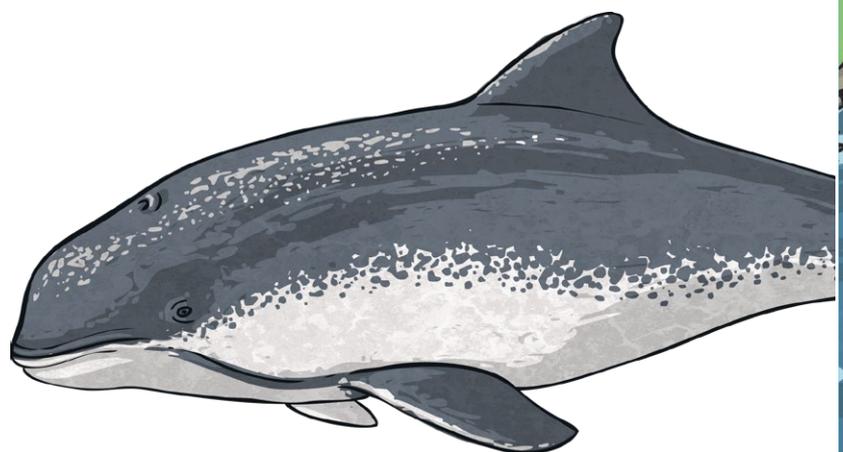
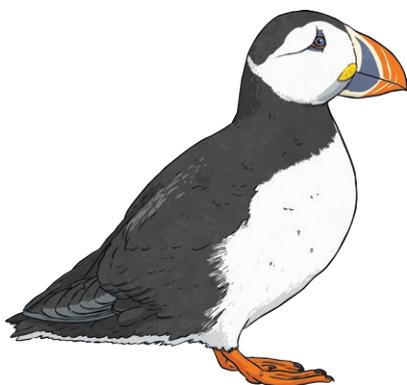
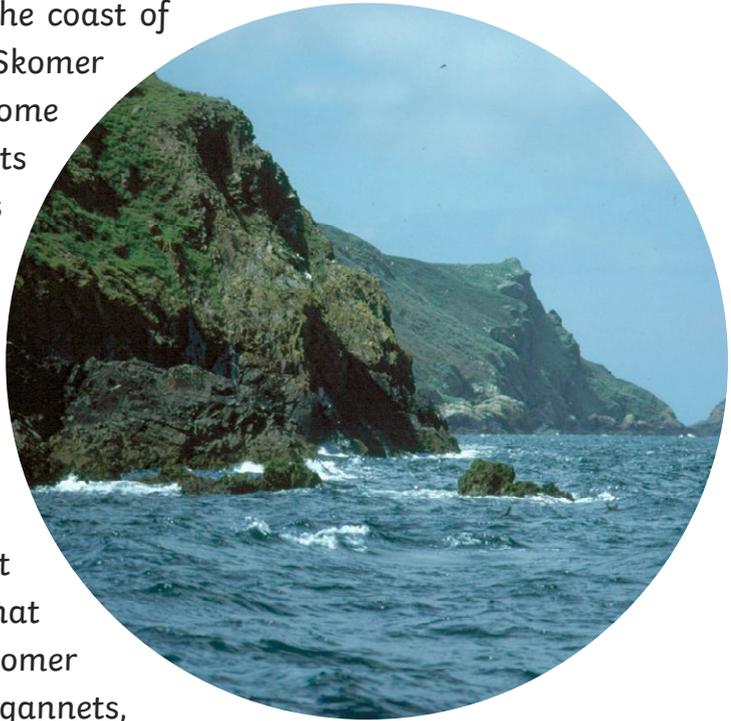
# Skomer Island

Skomer Island is an island off the coast of Pembrokeshire in West Wales. Skomer is a very special place - it is home to lots of rare animals, and lots of ancient monuments! It is such a special place that it is a Natural Nature Reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Protection Area.

The island is famous for being home to the largest colony of puffins in the south of Britain. But there are lots of other animals that call the island home too. On Skomer Island you will see fulmars, gannets, razorbills, Manx shearwaters and the Skomer vole. Skomer Island is the only place in the world that you will find the Skomer vole! In the waters around the island, you will find dolphins, harbour porpoises, and grey seals. There are even colourful sea slugs in the waters!

Most of Skomer Island has been classed as an ancient monument. This means that there are important historical structures which are thousands of years old. On the island, you can find stone circles, standing stones and even parts of prehistoric houses. 5000 years ago, over 200 people lived on the island.

Nobody lives on the island anymore. There is a hotel on the island that you can stay in if you visit Skomer Island. Lots of people take boat trips to Skomer to see the wildlife. To get to the island, they must cross a stretch of water called the Jack Sound. It is very dangerous water and lots of ships have sunk there.



# Questions

1. Where is Skomer Island?

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2. How can you get to Skomer Island?

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3. Why is Skomer Island a special place?

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4. What sorts of animals will you find on the island?

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5. Can you match the animal to its habitat?

Grey seal	Island
Puffin	Island
Skomer vole	Sea
Dolphin	Sea
Manx shearwater	Sea
Rabbit	Island
Harbour porpoise	Island

6. Can you find the correct words to fill in the blanks?

lived	standing
circles	thousands
ancient	5000

Most of Skomer Island has been classed as an \_\_\_\_\_ monument. This means that there are lots of things there which are \_\_\_\_\_ of years old. On the island, you can find stone \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ stones and even parts of prehistoric houses. \_\_\_\_\_ years ago, over 200 people \_\_\_\_\_ on the island.

7. Can you unscramble these words?

nuffip \_\_\_\_\_

danlis \_\_\_\_\_

toab \_\_\_\_\_

esa \_\_\_\_\_

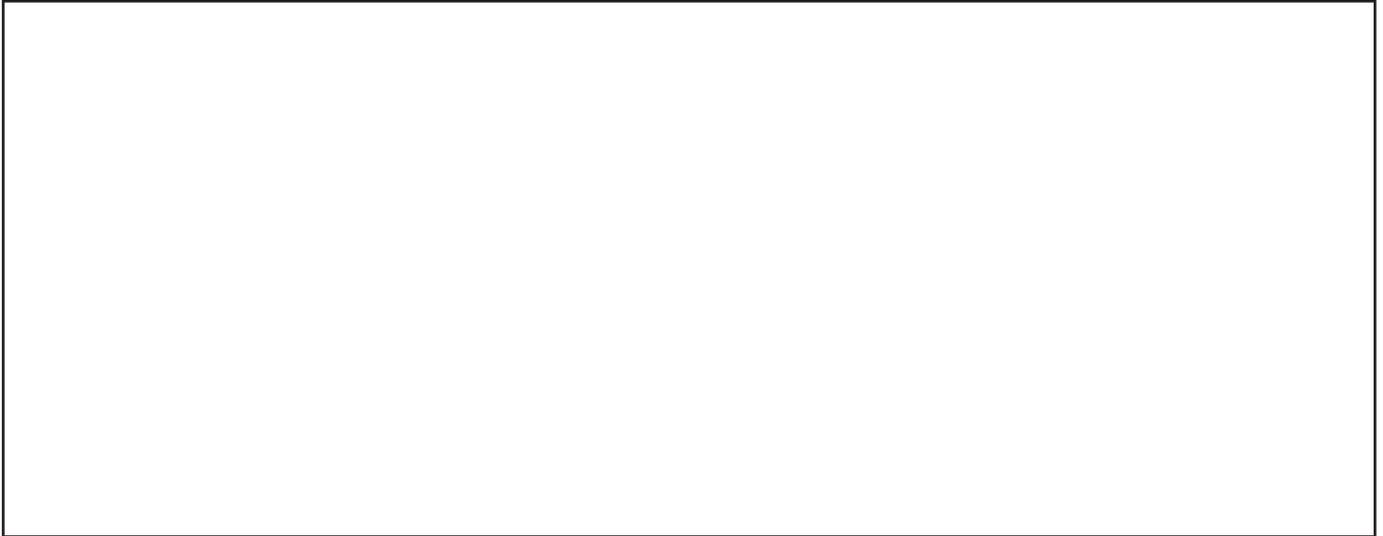
# Questions

8. Can you find out what a puffin looks like? Write a sentence to describe it.

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9. Draw a picture in the box to show what a puffin looks like.



10. Would you like to visit Skomer Island? Give reasons for your answers.

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# Answers

1. Where is Skomer Island?

**Skomer Island is an island off the coast of Pembrokeshire in West Wales.**

2. How can you get to Skomer Island?

**You can only reach Skomer Island by boat.**

3. Why is Skomer Island a special place?

**Skomer Island is a special place because it is home to a lot of animals/ has special status Natural Nature Reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, a Special Protection Area and being an Ancient Monument. It is home to lots of important colonies, e.g puffin/Skomer mole/Manx shearwaters.**

4. What sorts of animals will you find on the island?

**Fulmars, gannets, razorbills, Manx shearwaters, Skomer vole, puffins, dolphins, grey seals, harbour porpoises, sea slugs.**

5. Can you match the animal to its habitat?

Grey seal	<del>Island</del>	Sea
Puffin	<del>Sea</del>	Island
Skomer vole	<del>Island</del>	Sea
Dolphin	Sea	Island
Manx shearwater	<del>Sea</del>	Island
Rabbit	<del>Island</del>	Sea
Harbour porpoise	<del>Sea</del>	Island

6. Can you find the correct words to fill in the blanks?

Most of Skomer Island has been classed as an **ancient** monument. This means that there are lots of things there which are **thousands** of years old. On the island, you can find stone **circles**, **standing** stones and even parts of prehistoric houses. **5000** years ago, over 200 people **lived** on the island.

7. Can you unscramble these words?

**puffin**

**island**

**boat**

**sea**

# Skomer Island

Skomer Island is located 1 mile off the Pembrokeshire coast in West Wales. It is 1.5 miles long and 2 miles wide and is separated on one side by a narrow 'bridge.'

You can only reach Skomer Island by boat. The stretch of water between the coast of Pembrokeshire and the island is very dangerous. It is called the Jack Sound and many ships have wrecked there. Skomer is such a special place that it is a Natural Nature Reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Protection Area. Most of the island is also classed as an ancient monument.



The island is made of many different types of rock, including volcanic rock that dates back 400 million years. Scientists believe the island used to be attached to the mainland but was separated during the last ice age. On the island, you can find lots of ancient monuments such as stone circles, standing stones and the remains of prehistoric houses. Historians believe that more than 200 people used to live on the island during the stone age. That's over 5,000 years ago!

Skomer Island is famous for its puffin colonies - they are the largest in south Britain. On Skomer and its neighbouring island there are more than 10,000 breeding pairs of puffins. Although it is famous for its puffin colonies, there are many other animals that call the island home, such as razorbills, gannets, and fulmars. It is also home to half the world's population of Manx shearwaters! Skomer Island is the only place in the world where you will find the Skomer vole. They were first discovered in 1867 and more than 150 years later there are over 20,000 Skomer voles now on the island.

The waters around the island attract lots of wildlife too. You can find dolphins, harbour porpoises, Atlantic grey seals and even colourful sea slugs!

Today, the island is **uninhabited**, the last family to live on the island left in 1950, but lots of people take day trips to the island by boat to see the wildlife. There is even a hotel on the island so you can stay overnight!



# Questions

1. Where is Skomer Island?

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2. What is the Jack Sound?

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3. Why do you think Skomer Island is a Natural Nature Reserve?

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4. What is special about the Skomer vole?

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5. What proof do historians have that people used to live on the island thousands of years ago?

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6. What does uninhabited mean?

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7. Find two facts about the wildlife that lives on Skomer Island.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

8. Can you unscramble these words?

zbrilorasl \_\_\_\_\_

tsnegna \_\_\_\_\_

oprisosep \_\_\_\_\_

noslpihdn \_\_\_\_\_

fnfipu \_\_\_\_\_

# Questions

1. Can you find out what a puffin looks like? Write a description in the box below and draw a picture.

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2. Would you like to visit Skomer Island? Give reasons for your answers.

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# Answers

1. Where is Skomer Island?

**Skomer Island is located 1 mile off the coast of Pembrokeshire in West Wales.**

2. What is the Jack Sound?

**The Jack Sound is the name given to the stretch of water between Skomer Island and the Pembrokeshire coast. It is very dangerous and many ships have wrecked there.**

3. Why do you think Skomer Island is a Natural Nature Reserve?

**Skomer Island is a Natural Nature Reserve because it is home to important colonies of animals such as puffins and the Manx shearwater.**

4. What is special about the Skomer vole?

**The Skomer vole is special because it is unique to the island (you won't find it anywhere else in the world). They were discovered in 1867 and 150 years later there are more than 20,000 Skomer voles on the island.**

5. What proof do historians have that people used to live on the island thousands of years ago?

**Historians have found stone circles, standing stones and the remains of prehistoric houses, which prove that people used to live on the island thousands of years ago.**

6. What does uninhabited mean?

**Uninhabited means nobody lives there.**

**(of a place) without inhabitants.**

**I.e nobody lives there anymore.**

7. Find two facts about the wildlife that lives on Skomer Island.

**The island home to half the world's population of Manx shearwaters.**

**Skomer Island is the only place you will find the Skomer vole.**

**Skomer Island has one of the largest puffin colonies in southern Britain.**

**There are 10,000 pairs of breeding puffins on the island.**

**There are 20,000 Skomer voles on the island.**

8. Unscramble these words:

**Razorbills**

**Gannets**

**Porpoises**

**Dolphins**

**Puffin**

# Skomer Island

Skomer Island is located 1 mile off the Pembrokeshire coast in West Wales. It is 1.5 miles long and 2 miles wide and is separated by a narrow 'bridge' on the east side of the island. You can only reach Skomer Island by boat. The stretch of water between the coast of Pembrokeshire and the island, called the Jack Sound, is very dangerous and many ships have been wrecked there.



Skomer is such a special place that is a Natural Nature Reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and a Special Protection Area. Most of the island is also classed as an ancient monument.

The island is made of lots of different types of rock, including volcanic rock that dates back 400 million years. Scientists believe the island was once attached to the mainland but was separated during the last ice age. On the island, you can find lots of ancient monuments such as stone circles, standing stones and the remains of prehistoric houses. Historians believe that more than 200 people used to live on the island during the stone age. That's over 5,000 years ago!

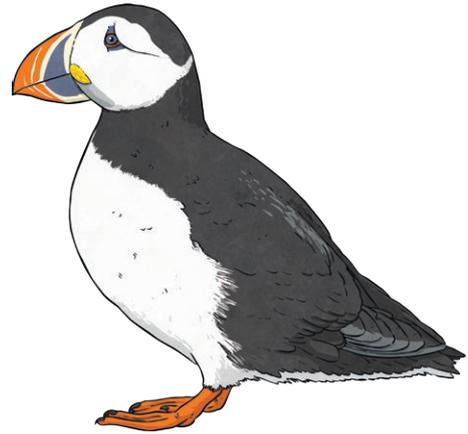
Skomer Island is famous for its puffin colonies. Between Skomer Island and its sister, Skokholm Island, there are over 10,000 pairs of puffins, making it the most important puffin colony in Britain. The puffins arrive on the island in mid-April and stay for three months. They thrive on the island, using rabbit burrows to nest in and they don't even mind the tourists!

Many other animals call the island home, such as razorbills, gannets, fulmars and over half the world's population of Manx shearwaters. In the waters around the island, you can find dolphins, harbour porpoises, Atlantic grey seals and even colourful sea slugs! It is also home to the Skomer vole, a 12cm long, forty-gram mammal that is unique to the island and cannot be found anywhere else in the world! It was discovered in 1867 by a pharmacist from Swansea called Robert Drane. There are over 20,000 Skomer voles on the island.

Today, Skomer Island is uninhabited. The last people to live there were the

# Skomer Island

Codd family who left the island in 1950. The first tourists to the island were welcomed in April 1946 and many people still take day trips to the island today, although only 250 people are allowed on the island each day. In 2005, a renovation project was started to convert the old farm buildings into places where people could stay overnight. Solar panels were installed to make the whole building environmentally friendly.



# Questions

1. What do you know about the geography of Skomer Island? E.g location, size, what the land is made from.

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2. List two reasons why you think Skomer Island is a Natural Nature Reserve?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why do you think Skomer Island has ancient monument Status?

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4. Find two facts about the Skomer vole.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Who was Robert Drane?

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6. How many puffins are there in total around Skomer Island?

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7. Find the meaning of the following words:

Unique: \_\_\_\_\_

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Uninhabited: \_\_\_\_\_

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Thrive: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Questions

8. What happened during these significant years?

1867 \_\_\_\_\_

1946 \_\_\_\_\_

1950 \_\_\_\_\_

2005 \_\_\_\_\_

9. Do you think it was a good idea to use solar panels to power the guest houses? Give reasons for your answers.

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10. Can you find out information about the puffin? Write a short fact file in the box below and draw a picture to illustrate your work.

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# Answers

1. What do you know about the geography of Skomer Island? E.g location, size, what the land is made from.  
**Skomer Island is located 1 mile off the coast of Pembrokeshire coast in West Wales. It is 1.5 miles long and 2 miles wide and is separated by a narrow bridge on the east side. The island is made up of lots of types of rocks including volcanic rocks which date back millions of years.**
2. List two reasons why you think Skomer Island is a Natural Nature Reserve?  
**Skomer Island is home to half the worlds population of Manx shearwater.  
The island is home to the most important puffin colony in Britain.  
Skomer Island is the only place in the world you will find the Skomer vole.**
3. Why do you think Skomer Island has ancient monument Status?  
**The island has ancient monument status because of all the monuments such as standing stones and stone circles that are still on the island. There are also remains of prehistoric houses and farms on the island.**
4. Find two facts about the Skomer vole  
**They are 12cm long.  
They weigh forty grams.  
There are over 20, 000 Skomer voles on Skomer Island.**
5. Who was Robert Drane?  
**Robert Drane was the pharmacist from Swansea who first discovered the Skomer vole in 1867.**
6. How many puffins in total are there around Skomer Island?  
**There are 20,000 puffins in Skomer Island.**
7. Find the meaning of the following words:  
**Unique: belonging or connected to (one particular person, place, or thing).  
Uninhabited: (of a place) without inhabitants.  
Thrive: If someone or something thrives, they do well and are successful, healthy or strong.**
8. What happened during these significant years?  
**1867: The Skomer vole was first discovered.  
1946: The first tourists were welcomed to the island.  
1950: The last family to live on the island left.  
2005: Renovation work started on the old farm buildings.**

# Answers

1. Do you think it was a good idea to use solar panels to power the guest houses? Give reasons for your answers.

**Yes, so that the guest houses don't have an impact on the environment and around the island.**