Reading 2 – Puffins

This is an extract from a science report about PUFFINS. Read it twice and answer the questions.



Anatomy of the Atlantic puffin



Hungry gull eating a puffin

Atlantic puffins are birds that live at sea most of their lives. They are also called "clowns of the sea"! – They have black and white feathers and a large parrot-like beak. They are small seabirds measuring up to 25 cm in length. They fly through the air like most birds, but they also "fly" through the water, using their wings as paddles.

Puffins are carnivores and eat small fish which they **hunt** underwater. They generally stay underwater for 30 seconds or less, but are able to **dive** 60 metres under water looking for their favourite fish. They are also very fast in the air. They move their wings up to 400 times a minute, going as fast as 88 kilometres an hour—as fast as a car on a highway.

Each year, generally between April and late July, thousands of puffins stay together in colonies on the coasts and islands of the North Atlantic Ocean. At the ages of 4-6, pairs of puffins often become mates for life, finding each other at their colony year after year. The pair often uses the same burrow, a kind of tunnel they use as a nest. There they incubate their eggs for 45 days. For the rest of the year, the birds fly out to sea. They only return to land again to lay more eggs and take care of their young.

A baby puffin looks like a ball of feathers and is known as a chick or puffling. A puffling eats so much food that both the mother and father have to give it fish. In one day a parent may dive 276 times, bringing back 10 fish each time.

In the wild, puffins live for around 20 years. Although they are not an endangered species, populations are in decline. Pollution and too much fishing are the main enemies of these beautiful birds.

VOCABULARY
- **Hunt**: to chase and try to catch and kill an animal or bird for food, sport, or profit.
- **Dive**: to jump into water, especially with your head and arms going in first, or to move down under the water.

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19. Only two of these statements are true. Mark with an X the <u>two</u> of these statements that are true.

- ☐ They live at sea all their lives.
- ☐ Their beak is similar to the beak of a parrot.
- ☐ Their wings help them to swim.
- ☐ They are fast swimmers, but they cannot fly.
- ☐ They can be more than 25 cm in length.
- ☐ They have black, white and orange feathers.

20. If we look at the diet of puffins, we can say that they are _____.

21. Puffins are ...

A. as fast in the sea as in the air.

B. faster in the air than in the sea.

C. faster in the sea than in the air.

D. faster than a car on a motorway.

22. In what <u>season(s)</u> do puffins stay in colonies, mate and incubate their eggs? mi respuesta

23. Attlantic puffins return to the same colonies every year ...

A. to build a new burrow.

B. to find a new mate.

C. to lay new eggs.

D. to look for food.

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24. PUFFLINS ...

A. eat 10 fish every day.

B. have no feathers.

C. is the name we give to baby puffins.

D. only get food from their fathers.

25. The main reason why there are fewer puffins nowaday is...

A. pollution and overfishing.

B. they don't have enough food.

C. they eat too much.

D. they have a lot of enemies.

26. In which paragraph do we learn about the reproduction of puffins?

A. Paragraph 2.

B. Paragraph 3.

C. Paragraph 4.

D. Paragraph 5.

27. Which of the following titles is the most appropriate for the text about the puffins?

A. PUFFINS. Welcome to the world of this amazing little bird.

B. PUFFINS. An incredible bird in danger of extinction.

C. PUFFINS. The birds that cannot fly.

D. PUFFINS. The largest diving bird.

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