

How Many Turns for the Tern? classroom activities

For use with “How Many Turns for the Tern?” *Highlights*, June 2013, pages 40-41

Before reading

What is migration?

Why do animals migrate?

Can you think of examples of animal migrations?

Scientific process

Where do Arctic terns breed?

Where do the birds go in the winter? Why?

What were Dr. Egevang’s research questions?

Choose one of those questions and write a hypothesis based on it.

What did Dr. Egevang expect to learn about these birds during his experiment?

Why did he have to wait a full year after beginning the experiment to collect data?

What were some of the challenges he faced with this research project?

What were Dr. Egevang’s findings? Did they match his expectations?

Extra Materials

Visit Dr. Egevang’s website <http://www.arctictern.info/> to answer the questions below.

How far can a single Arctic tern fly during its lifetime?

Why is the Arctic tern called the “bird of the sun”?

What do Arctic terns eat?

What does it mean that they are opportunistic feeders?

Where do the terns stop during their migration? Why do the scientists think they stop in those areas?