YEAR 5 · READING COMPREHENSION

# Non-Fiction Retrieval Practice Worksheet

**Name:** _____ **Date:** _____

## Atlantic Puffins: Life on the Cliffs

Atlantic puffins are seabirds that spend most of the year far out at sea. Each spring, they return to the same islands and cliffs in the North Atlantic to breed. A group of birds nesting together is called a colony.

An adult puffin is about 30 centimetres long, with a black back, a white belly and bright orange feet. During the breeding season, its large bill has bands of yellow, blue and red. Puffins dig burrows in grassy soil on cliff tops. A female lays one egg in May or June, and both parents take turns keeping it warm. The chick, called a puffling, hatches about six weeks later.

Adult puffins catch small fish such as sand eels, sprats and herring. They dive from the surface and use their wings to “fly” underwater. A puffin can stay below water for up to a minute. It carries fish crosswise in its bill; tiny, backward-pointing spines help keep the catch in place while it catches more.

By late summer, a young puffin leaves its burrow and heads out to sea alone. Puffins spend the winter on the open ocean and return to their breeding cliffs the following spring.

## Find it in the text

Read the passage carefully. Find each fact and write your answer on the line.

1. When do Atlantic puffins return to their islands and cliffs to breed?

2. What is a group of birds nesting together called?

3. About how long is an adult puffin?

4. Where do puffins dig their burrows?

5. How many eggs does a female puffin lay?

6. Name two kinds of fish that puffins eat.

7. What helps keep fish in a puffin’s bill?

8. For up to how long can a puffin stay below water?

9. What does a young puffin do in late summer?