Education Programme

Common Garden Birds

Blackbird questions and tasks:

- 1. Find Iceland on the map.
- 2. What is the National bird of Iceland?
- 3. What are the 3 months of winter on the Isle of Man?

Dunnock questions and tasks:

- 1. What does the word 'dense' mean?
- 2. List 2 similarities of the Dunnock and House Sparrow.
- 3. Which country does an Isle of Man Cuckoo go to in the winter?

Goldfinch questions and tasks:

- 1. To get to Spain from the Isle of Man, what Countries and seas might the birds cross?
- 2. Why they start eating insects in spring?
- 3. What months are classed as spring on the Isle of Man?

Great Tit questions and tasks:

- 1. Why do they have more broods if they live in pinewoods?
- 2. How many eggs are usually laid?
- 3. Find one 'Old Country' name for the Great Tit.

House Sparrow questions and tasks:

- 1. Where do Isle of Man House Martins live in the winter?
- 2. Why do House Sparrows steal House Martin nests?
- 3. Why is it a benefit to the adult House Sparrows if the chicks leave the nest after 2 weeks?

Robin questions and tasks:

- 1. Why are young robins brown and speckly?
- 2. Robins are part of the 'Old World flycatchers and chats' family. List 2 other regular UK species from this family.
- 3. Robins are omnivorous. What does this mean?

Starling

- 1. What does iridescent mean?
- 2. Where is Rome?
- 3. What is a predator?



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Image: By Falco_rusticolus_white.jpg: Ólafu Larsenderivative work: Bogbumper (talk) -Falco_rusticolus_white.jpg, CC BY-SA 2.0,

Blackbird answers:

Q2: Tourism may imply that the national bird of Iceland is the **puffin**, folklore may imply that it is the **raven**, yet in truth, it is the **Gyrfalcon**.

Q3: December, January, February

Dunnock answers:

Q1: Lots of things with little space between them

Q2: Colour and size (they are both brown and almost the same size)

Q3: Africa

Goldfinch answers:

Q1: Irish sea, IOM to England, England, English Channel to France, France to Spain

Q2: They are raising their chicks and feed insects to the chicks

Q3: March, April, May

Great Tit answers:

Q1: There is more food available to them

Q2: 5 to 11 eggs

Q3: Sharp-saw (originating from Norfolk, reflecting its song), Pridden Prals or Bee-Biter

https://community.rspb.org.uk/placestovisit/minsmere/b/minsmere-blog/posts/riphooks-devil-scritches-bumbarrels-amp-clodhoppers

House Sparrow answers:

Q1: Africa

Q2: House Martins are colonial nesters; they like to nest together. House Sparrows also like to nest together in colonies. Sometimes House Sparrows find House Martins empty nests from the previous year and as they start nesting earlier than the House Martins, they take ownership of the ready-made nests.

Q3: They can have more chicks – some years adults have up to 3 broods

House Sparrow in House Martin nest: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:A. male_House_Sparrow_I n the former nest of a House_Martin_Lips

Robin answers:

Q1: Young robins need to camouflage

Q2: Pied Flycatcher, Spotted Flycatcher

Q3: They eat everything from fruit to spiders

Starling answers:

Q1: Iridescent means showing luminous colours that seem to change when seen from different angles

Q2: Rome is in Italy

Q3: A predator is an animal or bird that naturally preys on another animal or bird