

Flesh-footed Shearwaters Life Cycle Challenge

Your task is to organise the parts of the shearwater's life cycle. Please cut these out and place them into the correct order, then draw a picture to show what that part of the cycle means.

Shearwaters go on long migration journeys -

Shearwaters fly to the coast of Japan or Korea to feed on tasty fish.

One single egg is at the bottom of the nest - It takes a lot of energy to make an egg.

Shearwater eggs are large.

Adults fly in search of food -

Daily fishing trips are needed to keep the baby well fed. Fishing off-shore takes energy and adults must catch enough for both themselves and their baby.

A baby with fluffy feathers

squawks for food - A shearwater chick grows fast on regurgitated fish. Rich in oils the babies become too big to fit out burrow openings.

Black feathers start to grow -

The soft down feathers have started to go. Long black feathers take their place.



Sitting down deep in the burrow waiting for the egg to hatch - Parent take it in turns to sit on the egg to keep it warm for 60 days until it hatches.

It's time to fly for this little one, off on an ocean adventure - The instinct of a shearwater is strong. They fly their first migration by the time they are a few months old.

Returning to the island that is our home. Finding the burrow on the forest floor - Shearwaters return to the same burrow each year. They need to clean the burrow and find fresh material to lay their egg on.

The shearwater is old, and has flown for 30 years around the oceans - Shearwaters can live up to 30 years old.

Shearwaters are old enough to become parents - Shearwaters are 4-10 years when they can make a burrow, find a mate and have chicks of their own.

