



ACTIVITY

SEABIRD COUNT

You are a seabird scientist wanting to know how many gannets are living on a small island. Can you correctly count how many gannets there are from the photos you take with your camera?

Look at the photographs below and count the birds. Answers can be found on the next page.

PHOTO 1



PHOTO 2



Hint! Counting heads is the easiest way to count the gannets in these photos.



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SEABIRD COUNT—ANSWERS

PHOTO 1

Answer: 16
gannets



PHOTO 2 Answer: Between 90—
100 gannets



Don't worry if you get a slightly different answer—counting lots of birds close together is tricky! Some are hidden, or you might accidentally count the same bird twice. Because of this, scientists have designed special ways of counting big colonies so their counts are more accurate.

SEABIRD SURVEYS

Scientists conduct counts, also known as surveys, so they can monitor populations of seabirds over time. Without this data, we wouldn't know how many live in Scotland, if they are doing well, where they breed, where they feed, and at what time of year. All this data can be used as evidence (information that can prove) when seabirds need better protection.

