

Name: _____

Date: _____

TRACKING SHOREBIRDS

StoryMap Scavenger Hunt

This activity was developed by West Coast NEST, an initiative of the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, based on the 'Tracking Shorebirds' [StoryMap](#) created by Stefania Gorgopa of The Raincoast Education Society, with funding provided by the NSERC PromoScience program.



TRACKING SHOREBIRDS

StoryMap Scavenger Hunt

Pre-Reading: The goal is to activate and connect to prior knowledge: *Full sentences*

Have you seen a shorebird? If so, whereabouts?	
Where do you think shorebirds travel within their lives? Where do they stop?	
How do you think shorebirds compare to other birds?	

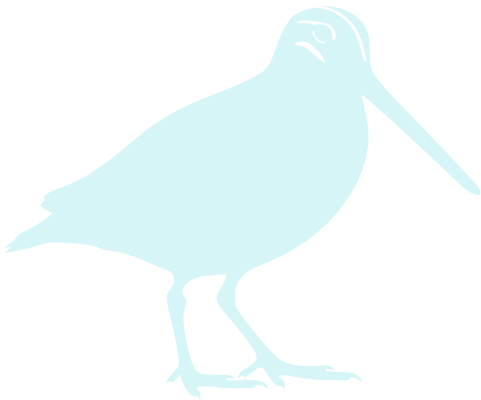
Activity: Work through the StoryMap to assist you with answering. Take your time and think critically. *Point form accepted, make sure to answer all parts of the question*

How much do shorebirds weigh?	
What do the Tofino mudflats do for Western shorebirds?	
When do researchers count shorebirds?	
What is double counting?	

What steps do researchers take to care for shorebirds that are caught in nets? How do they limit their stress?	
Describe radio telemetry in your own words.	
Where are the radio towers that support with tracking of shorebirds in Clayoquot Sound?	
On average, how long do Western Sandpipers stay in Tofino?	
What is the name of the global tracking network for birds? Where else are Western Sandpiper located?	
What do Western Sandpiper eat?	
What data, aside from movement, are researchers interested in when they examine shorebirds?	
How many stations does MOTUS network have? Hint: you may have to go to their website	

Critical Thinking Questions: Apply your understanding, think bigger, deeper and connect. *Full sentences*

What was the most exciting part of the StoryMap?	
What does this topic make you want to explore or know more about?	
If you had a bird researcher in front of you, what would you ask them about their work?	



TEACHER RESOURCE

This key uses typical answers based on the StoryMap content; adapt as needed

How much do shorebirds weigh?	20 grams.
What do the Tofino mudflats do for Western shorebirds?	They are a stopover spot for rest and refueling on their way to winter breeding grounds.
When do researchers count shorebirds?	Throughout their entire spring migration.
What is double counting?	Counting the same bird over the same span of days counting. This would be easy to do if you aren't tracking individual birds because there is no way to tell if you have already counted a target bird.
What steps do researchers take to care for shorebirds that are caught in nets? How do they limit their stress?	Working backwards to remove and untangle them in the direction they flew in. Working quickly to minimize stress.
Describe radio telemetry in your own words.	Answers will vary "The transmission of data from a remote source to a monitoring station. Telemetry is used in ecology to detect the locations and movements of animals. Radio Telemetry uses a tracking tag and a series of radio receivers."
Where are the radio towers that support with tracking of shorebirds in Clayoquot Sound?	North Chesterman Beach, Dinner Island, and Kwisis Visitor Centre.
On average, how long do Western Sandpipers stay in Tofino?	On average, for 1.6 days.
What is the name of the global tracking network for birds? Where else are Western Sandpiper located?	The MOTUS Network. Western Sandpipers have been detected across California, Alaska and Texas.

What do Western Sandpiper eat?	Invertebrates and biofilm.
What data, aside from movement, are researchers interested in when they examine shorebirds?	Diet, weight, blood and breath.
How many stations does MOTUS network have? Hint: you may have to go to their website	2,343 stations.

Critical Thinking Questions: Answers will vary

Suggested Extension Activities & Continued Learning Opportunities

- Research various ways researchers track animals. Assign teams to different animals to explore and share with the class.
- Explore another migratory bird. Create a mini StoryMap on this bird including features like habitat, key characteristics and one map to include its migration routes. MOTUS network may provide key information to support the research.
- Explore a local beach or bird habitat. Take notes and photos on what is observed and various bird behaviour. Take discoveries back to class and identify birds together while discussing various patterns and characteristics of different birds

Curriculum developed by **Monique Comeau** of the West Coast NEST, an initiative of the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, based on the 'Tracking Shorebirds' [StoryMap](#) created by **Stefania Gorgopa** of **Raincoast Education Society**, with funding provided by the NSERC PromoScience program.

What is West Coast N.E.S.T.?

The West Coast N.E.S.T. (Nature. Education. Sustainability. Transformation.) is a regional initiative led by the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust that connects communities, organizations, businesses, and knowledge holders on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Through education, collaboration, and capacity-building, the NEST creates meaningful learning opportunities, promotes the region's diverse educational programs, and supports a resilient and diversified local economy.

The NEST also facilitates place-based learning by connecting learners with local experts, creating educational resources, and hosting community events.

Learn more at westcoastnest.org.

Looking for more place-based educational content?

The West Coast NEST connects visitors and residents with unique and impactful learning opportunities. Many of these come in the form of place-based, face-to-face, and hands-on activities, but the NEST also helps share the region's abundant knowledge with schools and learners from afar. You can explore local research and conservation work through our online collaborative resources such as our interview series and our StoryMaps collection.

For high school, university, and adult groups seeking immersive educational experiences, we also offer customized itinerary planning, on-site orientation, and ongoing support for each visit. Delivered by regional partners, each program can be tailored to include hands-on learning in areas such as Indigenous culture, ecology, sustainability, science, language, history, outdoor education, and the arts.

Contact info@westcoastnest.org to start planning.

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Have feedback?

We would love to hear from you! Reach out to info@westcoastnest.org to share feedback on our resources, suggest ideas for new learning materials, or ask questions. Your input helps us create tools that better support educators and learners.

