

Skomer Island

Skomer Island is located 1 mile off the Pembrokeshire coast in West Wales. It is 1.5 miles long and 2 miles wide and is separated on one side by a narrow 'bridge.'

You can only reach Skomer Island by boat. The stretch of water between the coast of Pembrokeshire and the island is very dangerous. It is called the Jack Sound and many ships have wrecked there. Skomer is such a special place that it is a Natural Nature Reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Protection Area. Most of the island is also classed as an ancient monument.



The island is made of many different types of rock, including volcanic rock that dates back 400 million years. Scientists believe the island used to be attached to the mainland but was separated during the last ice age. On the island, you can find lots of ancient monuments such as stone circles, standing stones and the remains of prehistoric houses. Historians believe that more than 200 people used to live on the island during the stone age. That's over 5,000 years ago!

Skomer Island is famous for its puffin colonies - they are the largest in south Britain. On Skomer and its neighbouring island there are more than 10,000 breeding pairs of puffins. Although it is famous for its puffin colonies, there are many other animals that call the island home, such as razorbills, gannets, and fulmars. It is also home to half the world's population of Manx shearwaters! Skomer Island is the only place in the world where you will find the Skomer vole. They were first discovered in 1867 and more than 150 years later there are over 20,000 Skomer voles now on the island.

The waters around the island attract lots of wildlife too. You can find dolphins, harbour porpoises, Atlantic grey seals and even colourful sea slugs!

Today, the island is **uninhabited**, the last family to live on the island left in 1950, but lots of people take day trips to the island by boat to see the wildlife. There is even a hotel on the island so you can stay overnight!



Questions

1. Where is Skomer Island?

2. What is the Jack Sound?

3. Why do you think Skomer Island is a Natural Nature Reserve?

4. What is special about the Skomer vole?

5. What proof do historians have that people used to live on the island thousands of years ago?

6. What does uninhabited mean?

7. Find two facts about the wildlife that lives on Skomer Island.

1. _____

2. _____

8. Can you unscramble these words?

zbrilorasl _____

tsnegna _____

oprisosep _____

noslpihdn _____

fnfipu _____

Questions

1. Can you find out what a puffin looks like? Write a description in the box below and draw a picture.

2. Would you like to visit Skomer Island? Give reasons for your answers.
