Odd One Out

This resource is designed to encourage young children (ages 3-5 years) to observe closely and to stimulate thinking, talking and questioning about the features of local animals, plants and their habitats. It could also be used with older children in phase 1 or phase 2.

There are four Odd One Out activities in the resources section. All the animals and plants are commonly seen in Orkney.

Each activity has four images shown on one slide. These reflect a common theme which early level children might notice. We suggest that you share only one Odd One Out activity at any time. You can revisit the other activities another time.

Running the activity:

Choose a slide. Ask –How are these animals/plants similar? How are these animals/plants different?

Listen to children's suggestions. Encourage children to notice special features of each animal/plant such as the colour, the shape, the number of leaves.

Possible questions to prompt thinking & talking:

What colours can you see?

What shapes can you see?

Can you see any special body parts? (wings, antlers, spines, leaves, petals, etc.)

What type of animal/plant is this?

Where do you think the animal lives? (in a tree, in water, on land) How do you know?

How do you think the animal moves? (running, walking, crawling, flying, swimming) How do you know this?

Then ask everyone to decide which is the Odd One Out and WHY.

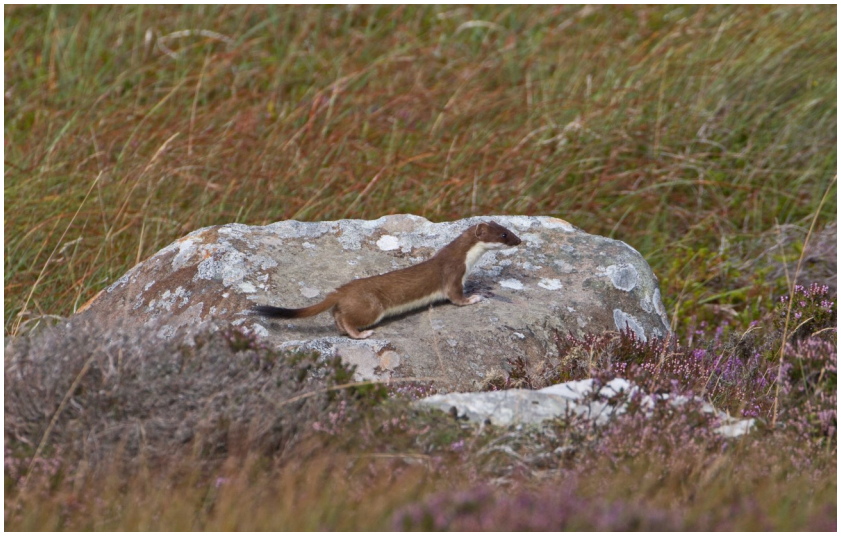
Encourage a reason for every answer given. There is no wrong answer here!

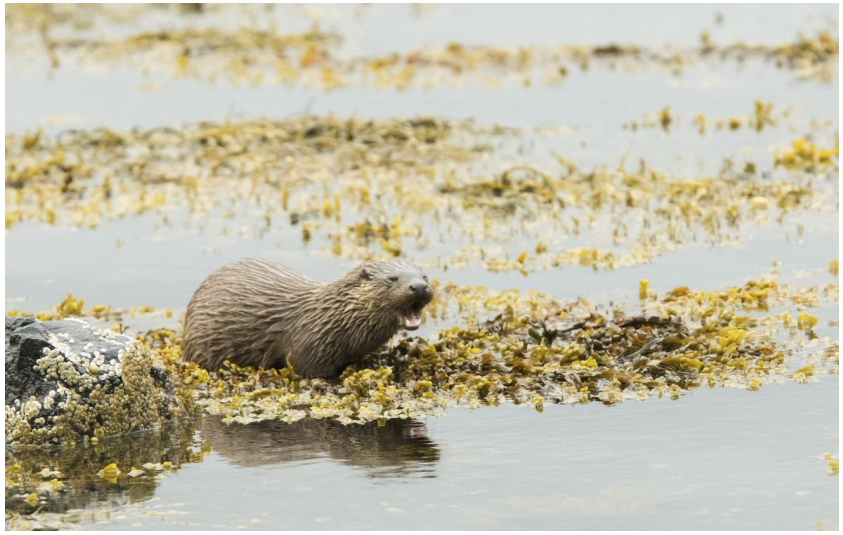
Background science:

The notes after each slide provide detailed information about the characteristics of each of the animals and plants shown. This is intended to support teachers' subject knowledge. We are not suggesting that Early Years children should be taught these facts.

Orkney Native Wildlife Project

Orkney Wildlife: Odd One Out





Orkney Wildlife: Odd One Out

Possible theme: Colour

The stoat and the otter both have brown fur with paler bellies.

The vole is completely brown.

The eider is much more colourful with white, black, green and peach showing.

Possible reasons for being the Odd One Out:

Colour: Otter, stoat and Orkney vole are all brown. The eider has several colours.

Skin covering: Otter, stoat and Orkney vole have thick fur whereas the eider has feathers.

Beaks/bill: Only the eider has a beak/bill.

Whiskers: Otters, stoats and Orkney voles have whiskers, eider do not.

Legs: Eider only has two legs.

Feet: Otter and eider both have webbed feet voles and stoats do not.

Tails: Stoats, otter and Orkney voles have tails. Eider only have tail feathers.

Flight: Eider are the only ones that can fly.

Size: Orkney vole is the smallest of the animals.

If using this activity with older children, you may want to discuss:

Classification: Otter, stoat and Orkney vole are all mammals whereas eider are a bird.

Life cycle: Otter, stoat and Orkney vole give birth to live young whereas eider lay eggs.

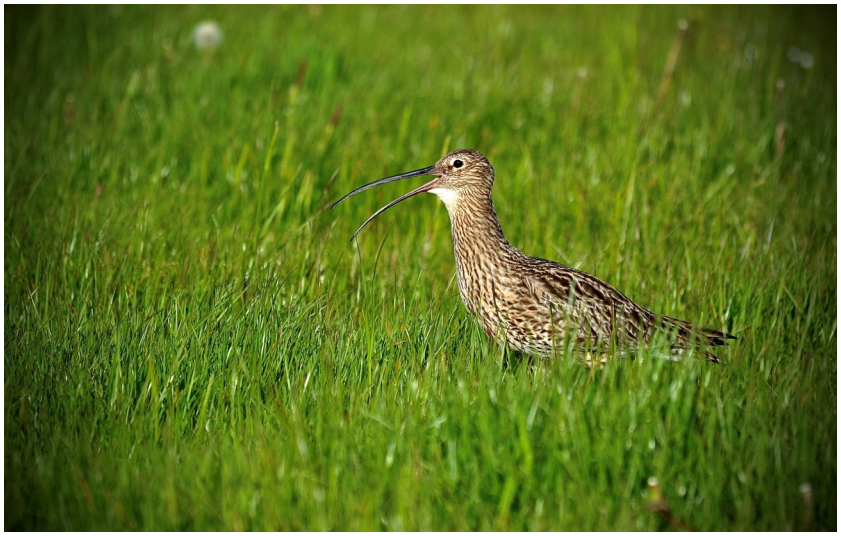
Diet: Otters, stoats and eider are carnivores. Eider eat molluscs, insect larvae and other small

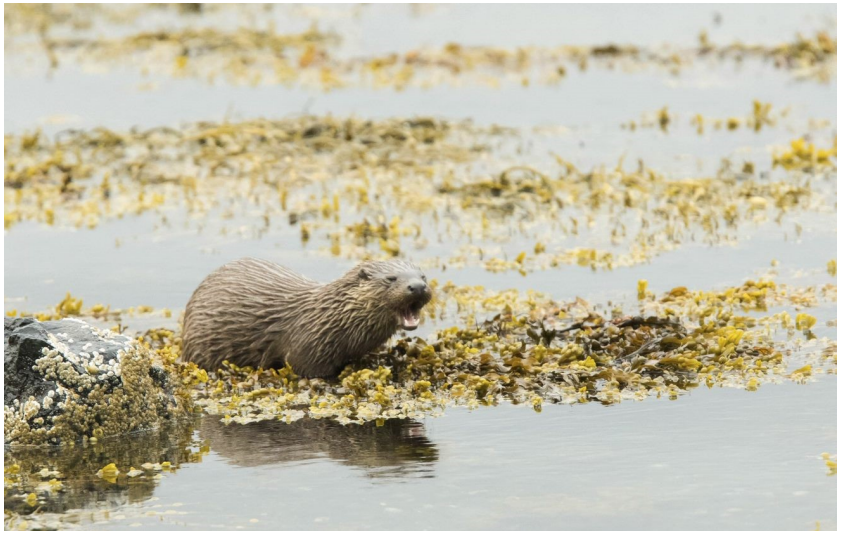
Key Vocabulary (Early Stage)

Stoat	Bill	Otter
Orkney Vole	Feathers	Eider Duck
Fur	Webbed Feet	Colours

Orkney Native Wildlife Project

Orkney Wildlife: Odd One Out





Orkney Wildlife: Odd One Out

Possible theme: Skin, feathers and fur.

Killer whales have skin only and no fur.

Seals and otters both have thick and waterproof fur to keep them warm in the sea.

Curlew have feathers

Possible reasons for being the Odd One Out:

Colour: The curlew and otter are brown in colour and the killer whale is black and white and the seal pup is white.

Webbed fingers/fins: Otters and seals both have webbed fingers for swimming and the killer whale has fins for swimming. Curlew have thin talons.

Beaks/Bill: Curlew are the only ones with beaks/bills.

Whiskers: Otters and seals both have whiskers.

Legs: Otters and curlew have legs and seals and killer whales have flippers/fins.

Tails: Otters, seals and killer whales all have tails that are used in different ways curlew have tail feathers.

Flight: Only curlew can fly.

Size: Killer whale are the largest of the animals.

If using this activity with older children, you may want to discuss:

Classification: Otter, seals and killer whales are all mammals. Curlew are birds

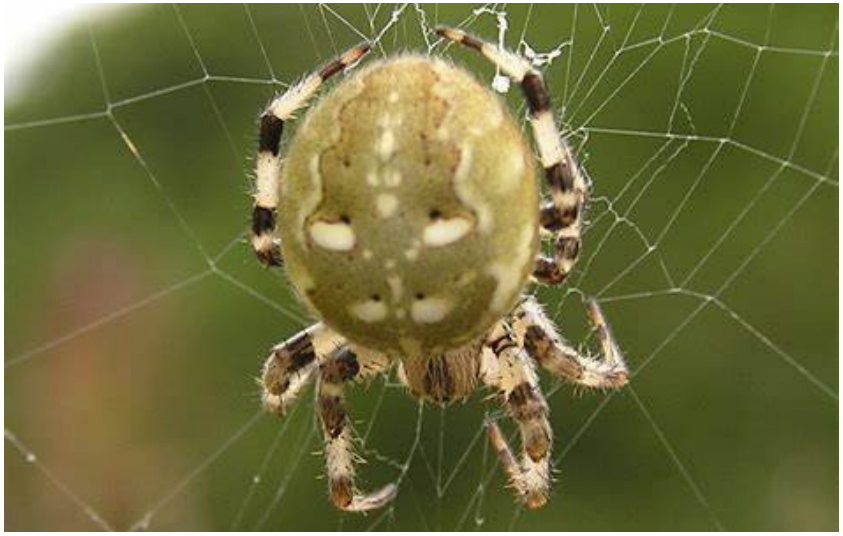
Life cycle: Otter, seals and killer whale give birth to live young whereas curlew lay eggs.

Key Vocabulary (Early Stage)

Grey Seal	Bill	Otter
Killer whale	Feathers	Colours
Curlew	Fur	Tail

Orkney Native Wildlife Project

Orkney Wildlife: Odd One Out



Orkney Wildlife: Odd One Out

Possible theme: Skin, feathers and fur

The four spot orb weaver spider has a hard exoskeleton but also has tiny hairs. Bumblebees and butterflies are both covered in fur. Guillemots are covered in feathers.

Possible reasons for being the Odd One Out:

Colour: The four spot orb weaver spider, great yellow bumblebee and peacock butterfly all have vibrant colours that are used to either confuse or warn off predators. The guillemot is black and white.

Mouth pieces: The butterfly and bumblebee both have a protruding probiscis. The spider has small fangs and mouth parts. The guillemot has a short bill.

Legs: The spider has eight legs the bumblebee and butterfly have six legs and the guillemot has two legs.

Wings: The spider is the only one without wings. The wasp has thin lacy wings and the butterfly has a thin membrane as wings. The birds wings are covered in feathers allowing flight.

Flight: All can fly except the four spot orb spider.

Size: Four spot orb spider are the smallest of these animals.

If using this activity with older children, you may want to discuss:

Classification: the spider falls into the arachnid family. The butterfly and bumblebee are both insects and the guillemot is classed as a bird.

Life cycle: all of these species lay eggs. The spider and butterfly hatch into larvae before taking their completed form whereas the spider and bird hatch into a smaller version of their final form.

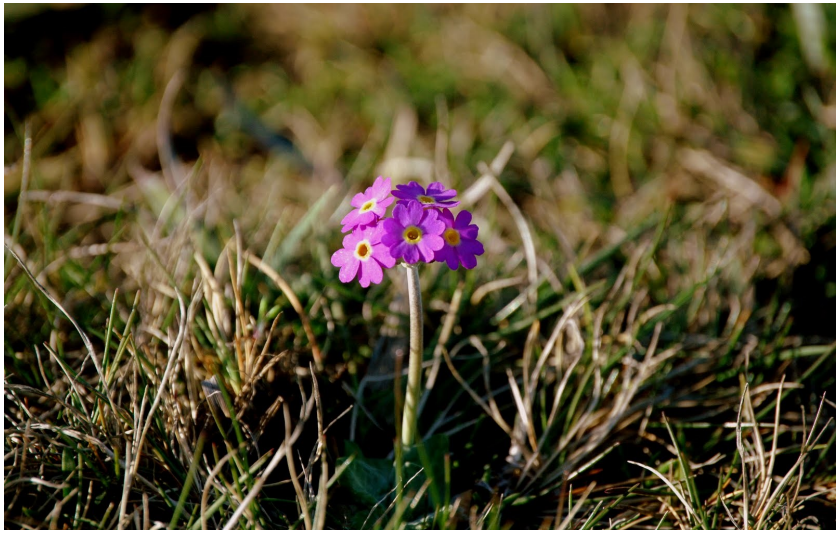
Diet: The spider and guillemot are both carnivores. Spiders predating other invertebrates and

Key Vocabulary (Early Stage)

Butterfly	Bumblebee	Wings
Guillemot	Feathers	Colours
Spider	Fur	Web

Orkney Native Wildlife Project

Orkney Wildlife: Odd One Out



Orkney Wildlife: Odd One Out

Possible theme: flowers

Primula scotica, eyeright and oysterplant all have flowers for attracting pollinators. Downy willow does not have flowers. Teachers could provide similar real flowers for the children not smell and look at with magnifiers.

Possible reasons for being the Odd One Out:

Colour: Primula scotica produces bright purple flowers twice a year. Eyebright produces a mat of bright white flowers and oysterplants produce blue flowers. All of the plants have green leaves.

Leaves: Oysterplant and downy willow and primula scotica have waxy thick leaves. Eyebright has smaller more irregularly shaped leaves. Primula scotica leaves only grow around the base of the stem. All the other plants have leaves growing all the way along their stem or branches.

Stem/Trunk: Downy willow has a woody main trunk and branches, whereas all of the others have fleshy stems.

Size: Primula scotica only grows to a few cm in height. Oysterplant and eyebright grow in large low level mats. Downy willow grows as a bush like plant.

If using this activity with older children, you may want to discuss:

Classification: Despite their difference all of these species are classed as plants.

Life cycle:

Abundance: Primula scotica, oysterplant and downy willow are globally rare plants that still have a strong hold in Orkney. Eyebright is a common species with approximately 20 different species.

Key Vocabulary (Early Stage)

Primula scotica	Downy willow	Leaves
Eyebright	Branch	Flowers
Oysterplant	Stem	Plant