

LIVE

Teaching Through Nature



Puffin Facts 4: Breeding & Nesting



Adult puffins arrive at the breeding colonies between March and April.

The males excavate nesting burrows in the soil, hoping to make an attractive nest for the female to lay an egg in. Puffins dig their burrows using their feet and bills, pushing the dirt out behind them like a dog digging a hole.

Puffins will defend their nests and re-use them in following years.

Most nests are lined with leaves, grass and feathers making a comfortable bed for the chick.

Burrows are 50 to 100 centimetres long with the nest at the far end and a toilet at the first bend in the tunnel to keep the bed clean.