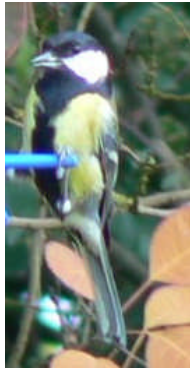


Great tit



I am a great tit.

I am a small bird with a black head and white cheeks.

I have a black stripe on a yellow breast.

Can you see my belly stripe?



I like to eat seeds, and when the weather is cold I will eat food from a bird table.

When I was a chick I preferred to eat caterpillars.

My nest was built in a small hole in a tree.

The nest was built by my mother from moss, grasses, hair and fur.

In April I was hatched from an egg.

I had three brothers and three sisters.

How many chicks were there in total?

I was completely naked and blind.

My mother and father would leave the nest to find food for the family.

They were in and out of the nest all day long feeding us.

I would beg for food, open my mouth wide and hope that my parents would drop a caterpillar in.

Why are predators interested in listening for loud begging chicks?

When I was 20 days old and my feathers had grown I started to practise stretching my wings.

One day my parents stopped feeding me and made me leave the nest.

Why do you think the parents stopped feeding their young?

I soon found out that I could fly and feed myself.

In the autumn I joined a flock of other great tits and we would look for food together.

Why do you think the great tit joined a flock rather than staying by himself?

Finding a partner

I am a male great tit and will sing to let the local females know where I am living.

I sway my head and show off my fine white cheeks and belly stripe.

Females are attracted to males with large belly stripes.

Create a display that would attract the attention of a possible partner. Try swaying your head and flapping your ears or rolling your shoulders.

Once I have found a partner I will sing to warn other males to keep away.

I would not want another male to take my partner away.

Create a short warning whistle or clicks to warn others away. You must be able to repeat it.

See if you can find the following words:

Great, tit, flock, seed

G	R	E	A	T
O	X	A	P	I
T	U	T	O	T
I	S	E	E	D
F	L	O	C	K

How many points can you get?

Task	Tick	Points
Have you seen a great tit?		2
Did you notice its belly stripe?		2
Did you hear it sing or call out?		5
Total points		

Please try to answer these questions:

What colour is a great tit's belly stripe?

Why does a male great tit show off his belly stripe?

What do great tit chicks like to eat?

As a young chick, how would you make sure that your parents fed you?

Why do you think parents stop feeding their chicks?