

**BRINGING  
OUR WORLD  
BACK TO LIFE**



# *The Great British Wildlife Guide*

*Learn about some of the beautiful wildlife  
on your doorstep with this curated guide  
from the experts at WWF.*



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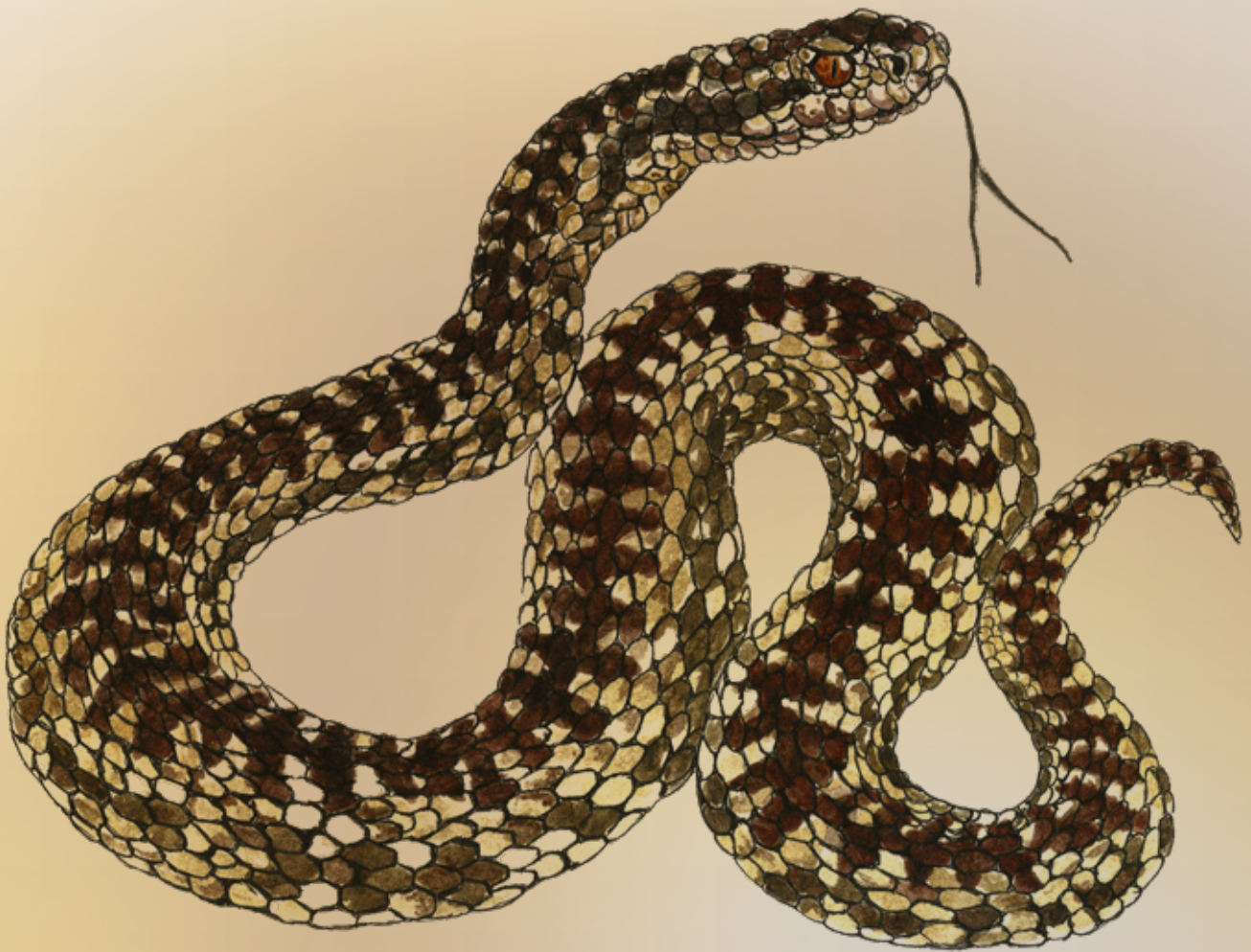


# Adder

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[AD-uh] . *Vipera Berus*

**South Downs**



Although rapidly declining, adders can still be found across much of Great Britain including Scotland and Wales, but particularly in Southern England.

## 🏠 **Habitat**



Britain's only native venomous snake, the adder has one of the largest ranges of any terrestrial snake in the world, even reaching as far as the arctic circle!

## 👁️ **Awareness**

- *You can spot an adder thanks to their distinctive zig-zag pattern.*
- *Adders are viviparous, which means they give birth to live young rather than laying eggs, which is rare for a reptile. Female adders can have litters of up to twenty live young.*
- *They are rapidly declining, and some experts expect they will be extinct in the UK within the next 10 years.*



# Beaver

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[BEE-vuh] . *Castor Fiber*  
**Devon**



CLASSIFIED AS  
**ENDANGERED**  
IN GREAT BRITAIN



## *Habitat*

These ecosystem engineers have been reintroduced in freshwater habitats from Scotland's Cairngorms to the London borough of Ealing! After becoming extinct in the UK around 400 years ago, beavers are making an exciting comeback!

### *~Did You Know~*

Beavers usually pair up for life. They live in family groups made up of an adult pair and their kits, with kits usually leaving the family group at around two years old. Contrary to popular belief, they don't eat fish, and feed exclusively on plants!



## **Biology**

- *Webbed toes.*
- *Flat, hairless tail.*
- *Strong and distinctive orange teeth caused by iron in their enamel.*
- *Teeth and mouth muscles arranged so to help them gnaw underwater.*
- *Transparent third eyelids to protect their eyes as they swim underwater.*

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# *European Hedgehog*

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[hej-hog] . *Erinaceus Europaeus*  
**Greater Manchester**





## **Habitat**

Hedgehogs are found in a variety of habitats including gardens, woodlands and parks.

They're nocturnal so you're most likely to spot them at night as they search for worms, slugs and various bugs before returning to cover during the day. They hibernate under leaf and log piles throughout the winter months.

## **Facts**

- *Despite the past belief that they love milk, the hedgehog is lactose intolerant.*
- *Be careful! Hedgehogs love to hibernate in piles of leaves over winter. If you're lighting a bonfire, please check for hedgehogs first.*
- *The name hedgehog derives from late middle english heyghoge, with 'hedge' referring to its habitat, and 'hog' referring to its pig-like snout.*



*Spines*

*Snout*



*Whiskers*

*Tail*

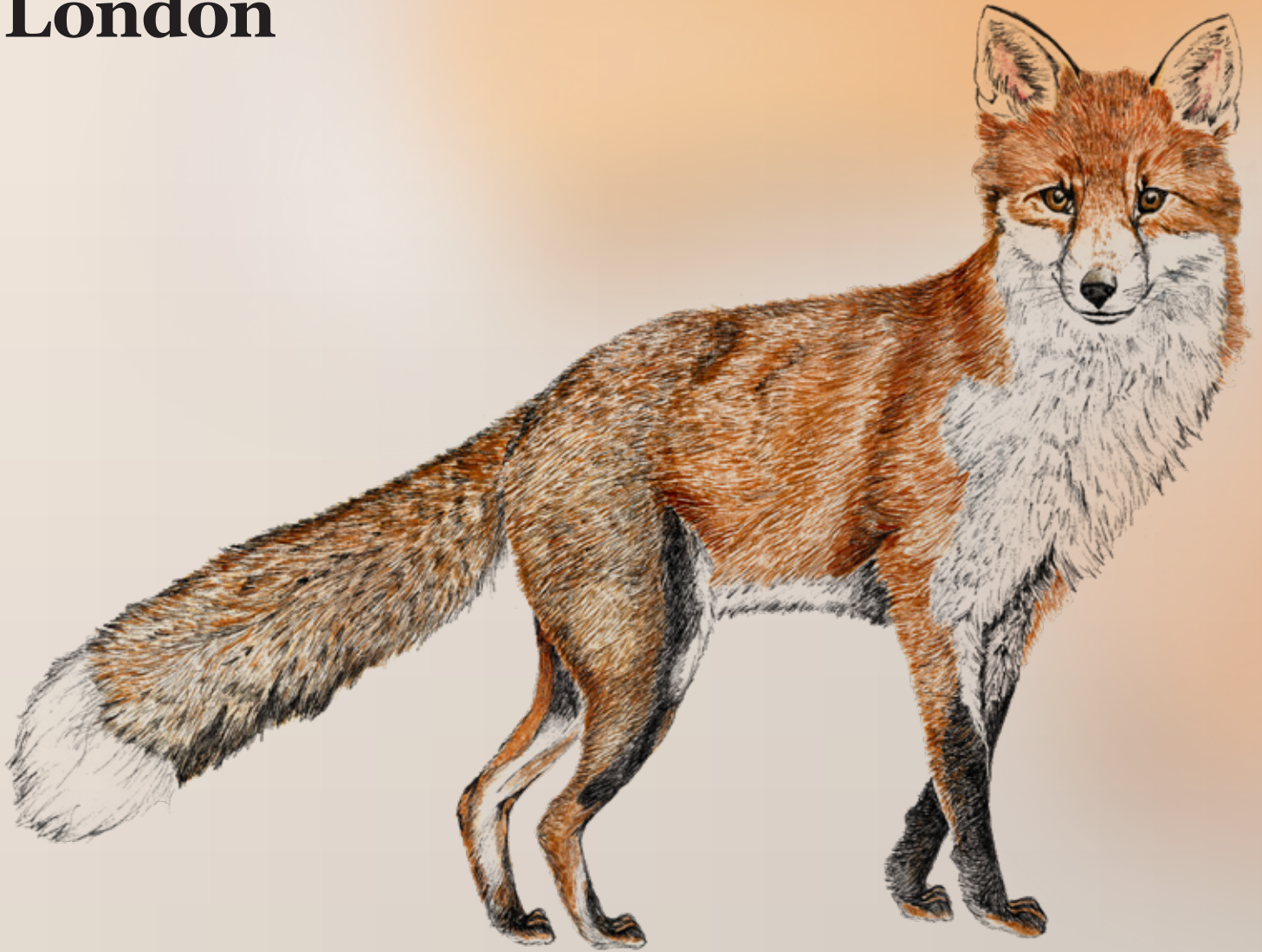
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# Fox

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[focks] . *Vulpes Vulpes*  
**London**



They're incredibly adaptable and can make their dens anywhere from old badger setts to under garden sheds. With such a resourceful nature, it's no surprise that foxes are known as symbols of cunning and intelligence in folklore across cultures.



## Facts

- *Foxes can be found throughout the UK, and are often sighted in London late at night.*
- *The familiar bushy tail of the red fox not only acts as insulation in the cold weather, but is a useful balancing aid.*
- *A group of foxes is sometimes known as a 'skulk' or a 'leash'.*
- *Foxes are part of the Canidae family, which also includes wolves, coyotes and domestic dogs.*



# Golden Eagle

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[EE-guhl] . *Aquila Chrysaetos Cairngorms*  
**Cairngorms**







The second-largest bird of prey in Britain behind only the White-tailed Eagle, Golden Eagles are extremely large, and are the top predator in the Scottish countryside.

A Golden Eagle's nest is known as an 'eyrie'. They can reach depths of up to 4.5m, and are used throughout generations. These nests are lined with feathers and fur, and are maintained each year through repairs and further building.

## ***Habitat***

Golden eagles are the most widely distributed species of eagle but in the UK their population is limited to regions of Scotland and Northern Ireland including the Cairngorms and the Hebrides.



# *Holly Blue Butterfly*

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[BUT-uh-fligh] . *Celastrina Argiolus*  
**Northern Ireland**







## 🏠 *Habitat*

With the exception of areas of Scotland, the holly blue butterfly is widespread across much of the UK, including strong distributions in the southern half of Northern Ireland. Populations across locations fluctuate from year to year but they are commonly seen in gardens, hedgerows, parks and the edges of woodlands.



*Forewing*

*Antennae*



*Hindwing*

*Compound Eye*

## Facts

- *These beautiful and delicate insects emerge in early spring. You can distinguish them from other blue butterfly species due to the black speckles on the underside of their wing.*
- *Holly Blues belong to the Lycaenidae family, also known as gossamer-winged butterflies, which is the second-largest family of butterfly.*
- *Unsurprisingly considering their name, Holly Blues prefer to feed on Holly during the spring, but they move on to Ivy in the late summer, and can feed on a variety of plants.*

# Natterjack Toad

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[tohd] . *Epidalea Calamita*  
**Northumberland**



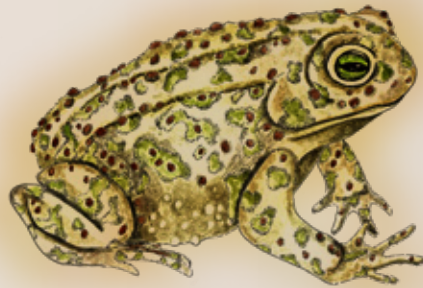


## **Habitat**

This toad species is one of two in the UK and is confined to only a few coastal locations in the UK including Cumbria, East Anglia and South West Scotland. They live in shallow pools amongst dunes and marshland.

## **Facts**

- *The UK's loudest amphibian, Natterjack Toads emit a loud breeding call, which can be heard up to a mile away. Their distinctive yellow stripe is thought to serve as a warning to would-be predators.*
- *Natterjacks are rare, and they are greatly threatened by habitat loss. Because of this, they have strict legal protections, and it is illegal to disturb this species.*
- *Natterjack toads are often known as 'the running toad' due to their preference for running over hopping.*



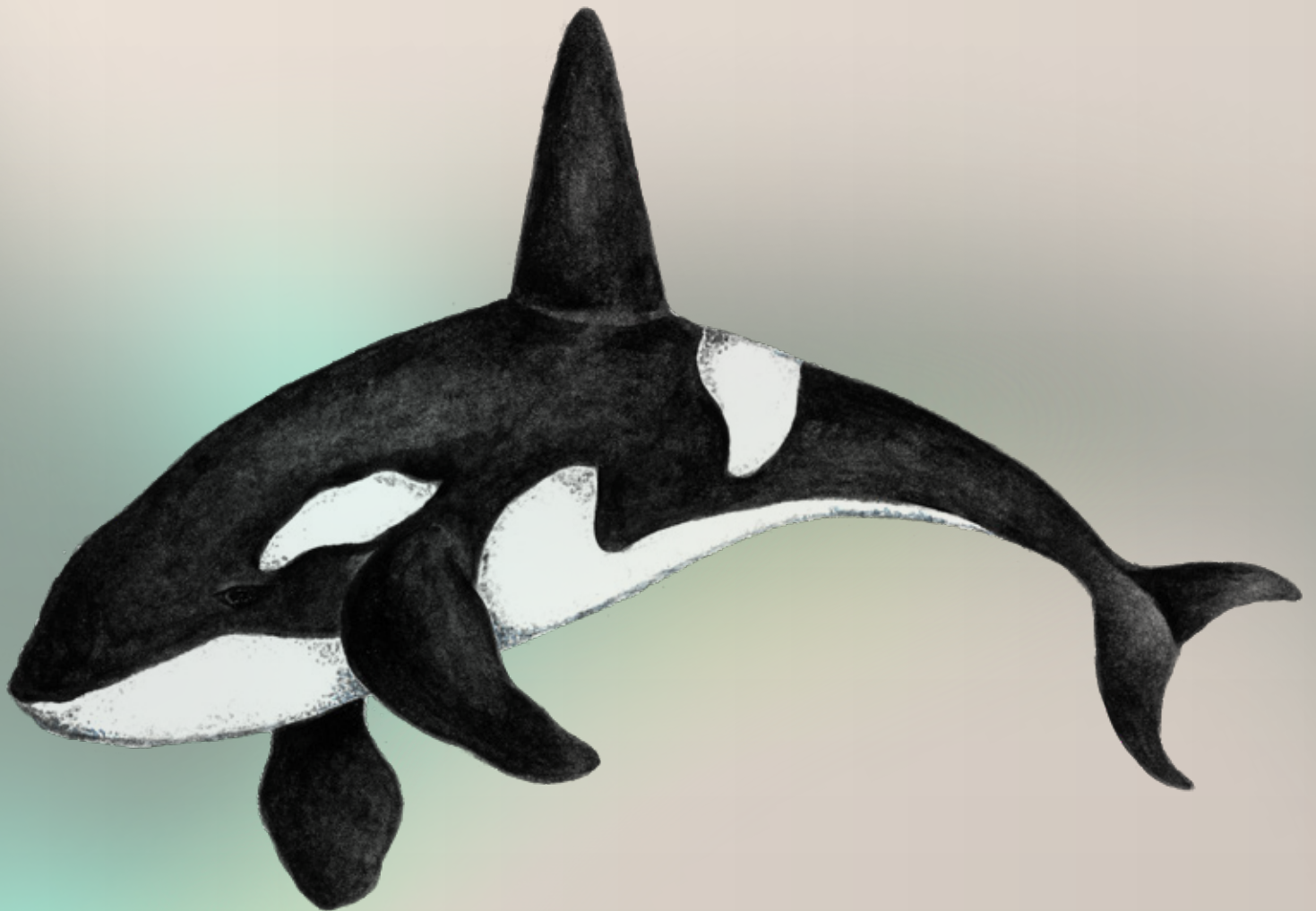
### *~Did You Know~*

Unlike many other amphibians, natterjacks provide parental care to their young, guarding eggs and tadpoles to ensure the safety of their offspring. They will often carry tadpoles on their backs to find more suitable locations. Parents also communicate with their offspring using vibrations and calls, helping to synchronise hatching.

# *Orca*

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[OR-kuh] . *Orcinus Orca*  
**Shetland**





## *Habitat*

Found in most marine habitats around the world, these majestic creatures can be spotted on the west coast of Scotland (if you are lucky!). The orcas around Scotland may also travel around the Shetland and Orkney islands, Iceland, and Norway. They are most common in cold waters and near the shore.

## *~Did You Know~*

Orca are called madadh-cuain in Gaelic which means ‘ocean wolf’.

Orcas are the largest member of the dolphin family.

*Dorsal Fin*

*Beak*

*Fluke*



*Pectoral Fins*

*Belly Spots*



## **Threats**

- *Disorientation from underwater noise.*
- *Food reduction caused by overfishing.*
- *Entanglement in discarded fishing equipment, aka “ghost gear”.*
- *Health issues due to pesticides and other contaminants.*

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# Puffin

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[PUFF-in] . *Fratercula Arctica*  
**Skomer**





## 🏠 *Habitat*

Puffins in Great Britain inhabit grassy cliff-tops, islands, and boulders at the foot of steep cliffs. Notable locations include Skomer Island (Wales), Bempton Cliffs (England), and St. Kilda (Scotland).

## ~*Did You Know*~

In Scotland, Puffins are known as ‘tammie norries’.

The puffins’ genus name, *Fratercula*, comes from the Latin for ‘little brother’. The name refers to the sea bird’s black and white plumage, which was said to resemble the robes that monks once wore.

*Serrated Beak*

*Hinge*



*Sharp Claws*

*Webbed Feet*



## **Facts**

- *They lay just one egg per year – and usually with the same mate.*
- *They take turns incubating the egg and caring for the chick.*
- *They have technicolor bills and matching orange feet during the spring breeding season, which dulls before winter sets in.*
- *They are one of the few birds that can hold several small fish in their bills at a time, usually up to 12.*
- *They can fly as fast as 55 mph!*

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# *Red Squirrel*

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[SKWIRR-uhl] . *Sciurus Vulgaris*  
**Yorkshire Dales**





## Facts

- *Their bushy tails help provide balance, and also act as a signalling tool.*
- *They can vary in colour, from a vivid orange to a dark russet colour, with some fur appearing almost grey.*
- *Their tufted ears, smaller size, and the solid colour of their tails is another way to tell them apart from the grey squirrel.*
- *Double-jointed ankles allow them to climb trees more easily.*
- *Their nests are known as a 'drey'.*
- *Red Squirrels can jump more than 2 metres!*



*Ear Tufts*

*Bushy Tail*



*Whiskers*

*5 Toes*

*4 Fingers*

## *Habitat*

Once common across the UK, the red squirrel is now limited to Scotland and Northern England, with isolated populations in Wales, the Isle of Wight, and islands in Poole Harbour. They live in various types of woodlands where they can access their favourite seeds and nuts to eat.

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# Starling

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[STAR-ling] . *Sturnus Vulgaris*  
**Brighton**







## 🏠 **Habitat**

Starlings can be seen across the UK in a wide range of habitats from cities to wetlands, farmland and woodlands. Head out at dusk in the winter months to see their spectacular murmuration displays.

## 🔍 **Facts**

- *Starlings can mimic a huge variety of sounds.*
- *Their plumage contains beautiful shades of green and purple up close.*
- *Starlings' beaks change colour! From a dark beak in the winter months they transition to a bright yellow before the breeding season.*

Illustrations by [www.katewallis.com](http://www.katewallis.com)

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