

# **Birds, Plants and Animals of the Burren**



# Birds

The Puffin.

The puffin cannot be found anywhere else in Europe .They can be found nesting on the Cliffs of Moher in County Clare.Puffins can fly for long periods of time and they can swim.



# The Razorbill

The razorbill is a sea bird.

Male razorbills are larger than female razorbills. Females lay one egg per year. In 1918 the razorbill was protected.

Razorbills belong to the same family as guillemots and puffins.

It is the auk family.



# The Chough

There are two species of chough birds commonly called the chough. There is the red billed chough and the alpine chough <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBOgoF0ozE> if you click on that link you will hear what the chough sounds like. Choughs breed in mountains in Morocco and Spain

Darragh and Clodagh



# Butterflies of the Burren

One of the butterflies that is in the Burren is the Pearl - Bordered Fritillary. It has yellow and black wings. The pattern on the wings is very pretty.





This is a moth-like butterfly that has brown and orange wings and has a flat back.

# Animals of the Burren

A wide variety of animals live in the Burren. Some animals that live in the Burren are hares, foxes, pine martens, pygmy shrews and bank voles. The feral goat can also be seen roving across the Burren. The woodlands and hazel scrub offer shelter to these goats in harsh weather.





# Plants of the Burren

There are rare species of plants that grow in the cracks in the limestone and in areas where there is thin soil on the Burren. These are some of the names of the plants on the Burren : fly orchid, mountain avens, tormentil, wild thyme, birdsfoot trefoil and spring gentian. People that study plants come from around the world to see Burren's plants. Some plant species in the Burren are usually found in the Arctic or on the Upper slopes of the Alps. Ash and hazel trees grow in the forested areas at the scrublands. Orchids grow in grassy areas where there is deeper soil. The region is the home of 22 of Ireland's 27 native orchid species. The animals graze on the grass and the result is a wide variety of flowering plants.



# Fly Orchid



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The fly orchid blooms in May and June. The fly orchid grows on limestone pavement.

# Spring Gentian



The best time to see the Spring Gentian is in April, May or June. Its habitat is in grasslands or pavements. The spring gentian is bright blue. Each flower has five petals. It is the wildflower for which the Burren is famed. It is found in Clare, parts of Galway and Mayo.

# Wild Thyme



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*Wild thyme is a herb. The flowering part is used for medicine. People use it as a medicine to help with coughs bronchitis and swollen airways. Wild thyme has oval shaped leaves and pinky purple flowers. Wild thyme can be found on old walls and on bog land. Wild thyme grows up to 3-4 cm long.*

# Tormentil



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The tormentil is a plant from the Burren and it's a herb. The tormentil is used to make medicine. The tormentil can be different colours for example purple, white and yellow. The tormentil is one of the most common plants in the Burren. The tormentil is a four-petalled bloom.

# Conclusion

We wrote about plants , birds and animals of the Burren. We learned a lot of facts that were interesting about the Burren. Everybody got to do a different part of the project. It was fun doing the project together. We really enjoyed it and it was safe.