Who is this swan?

This swan is a whooper swan

Whooper swans stay here from September to April. They fly here from Iceland, 800 miles (1,287km) away, because it is warmer here. They can make this journey in one day, although often they sit on the sea to rest and take longer.

We are helping whooper swans by providing safe winter habitats for them to feed and rest during the winter and by monitoring them on their nesting grounds in Iceland. Their numbers are going up with more than 16,000 now visiting the UK each winter.

You can help swans by taking litter home with you so they don't eat it.

Inside the pockets of the swan bag you will find:

- A Example of **swan food** (sealed).
- B **Tape measure** for measuring its size.
- C **Newton meter** for measuring the mass of the swan.

What to do

1. **Ask four students to come up and help the swan**. One each to hold the wing tips, one to hold the body and one to hold the head.
2. **Ask one or two other students to use the tape measure** to measure the wing span (from wing tip to wing tip), the length of the swan and the neck.
3. **Look around at the live swans here for comparison.** Many of the swans nearby will be mute swans with orange beaks. They are a little larger than the whooper swans.
4. **Use the swan to ask your class curious questions about the swan,** or for the children to come up with their own questions.
5. **Using the Newton meter to measure the mass of the Bewick's swan.** Keep the swan in its carrier so you can attach the hook. What is the mass of the swan? (read from the kg scale on the edge of the cylinder)

   In real life swans weigh three times this much, between 4.5 and 7kg.
6. **Show your class what we feed our swans.** The sealed container has some wheat and special food pellets inside. These contain many of the nutrients the swans needs in the winter. By day the swans feed on grasses and roots. They come here to be fed in the evening.

WWT

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust registered charity in England & Wales, no. 1030884 and Scotland, no. SC039410

Who is this swan?

This swan is a Bewick's swan

Bewick's swans stay here from October to March. They fly here from Arctic Russia, 2,500 miles (4,023km) away, because it is warmer here. They are named after the naturalist Thomas Bewick who was a wood engraver and an author.

We are helping Bewick's swans by providing safe winter habitats for them to rest during the winter and by monitoring them on their nesting grounds in Russia. Since 1995 the number of Bewick's swans making the migration from arctic Russia to northern Europe has plummeted by nearly a half – from 29,000 to just 18,000.

You can help swans by taking litter home with you so they don't eat it.

Inside the pockets of the swan bag you will find:

- **A** Example of **swan food** (sealed).
- **B** **Tape measure** for measuring its size.
- **C** **Newton meter** for measuring the mass of the swan.

What to do

1. **Ask four students to come up and help the swan.** One each to hold the wing tips, one to hold the body and one to hold the head.
2. **Ask one or two other students to use the tape measure** to measure the wing span (from wing tip to wing tip), the length of the swan and the neck.
3. **Look around at the live swans here for comparison.** Many of the swans nearby will be mute swans with orange beaks. They are a little larger than the Bewick's swans.
4. **Use the swan to ask your class curious questions about the swan,** or for the children to come up with their own questions.
5. **Using the Newton meter to measure the mass of the Bewick's swan.** Keep the swan in its carrier so you can attach the hook. What is the mass of the swan? (read from the kg scale on the edge of the cylinder)

   In real life swans weigh three times this much, between 4.5 and 7kg.
6. **Show your class what we feed our swans.** The sealed container has some wheat and special food pellets inside. These contain many of the nutrients the swans needs in the winter. By day the swans feed on grasses and roots. They come here to be fed in the evening.

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