

# For Creative Minds

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## Match the Terns by Age

Identify the tern by its age.

1. I am an **egg** waiting to hatch.
2. I am a **hatchling**, just breaking out of my egg.
3. I am waiting for my brother or sister to hatch. We are well cared for by both parents.
4. I am four or five days old, a young **nestling**.
5. I am a **fledgling** and can fly.
6. I am an **adult**.



Answers: 1D; 2C; 3F; 4A; 5E, 6B

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## Shorebird Snacks

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Different shorebirds eat different foods. Common Terns eat small fish including American sand lance, menhaden, spot, Atlantic silverside, bay anchovies, and occasionally sand crabs! Find what the terns are eating in the photographs.



## Fun Facts

Match the statement to the photo.

1. Terns cool themselves down by “panting.” Since birds can’t sweat, they cool off by opening their beaks. They may also spread their wings to feel the breeze or take a dip in the water.
2. Adults make a nest, called a scrape, by moving the sand (or broken shells) with their beaks and then wiggling their bellies until they are settled in. Sometimes, they add sea grasses that blow onto the raft.
3. Both adults and chick terns are banded to allow scientists to recognize individuals, record information about them, and report when the terns leave the raft.
4. The raft is made of sections that are assembled, locked together and anchored for the terns’ summer nesting season. When put together, the raft is 48 x 48 feet.
5. The Maryland’s Coastal Bays Program hosts a “Bay Day” each year where children can paint the shelters to be used on the raft.

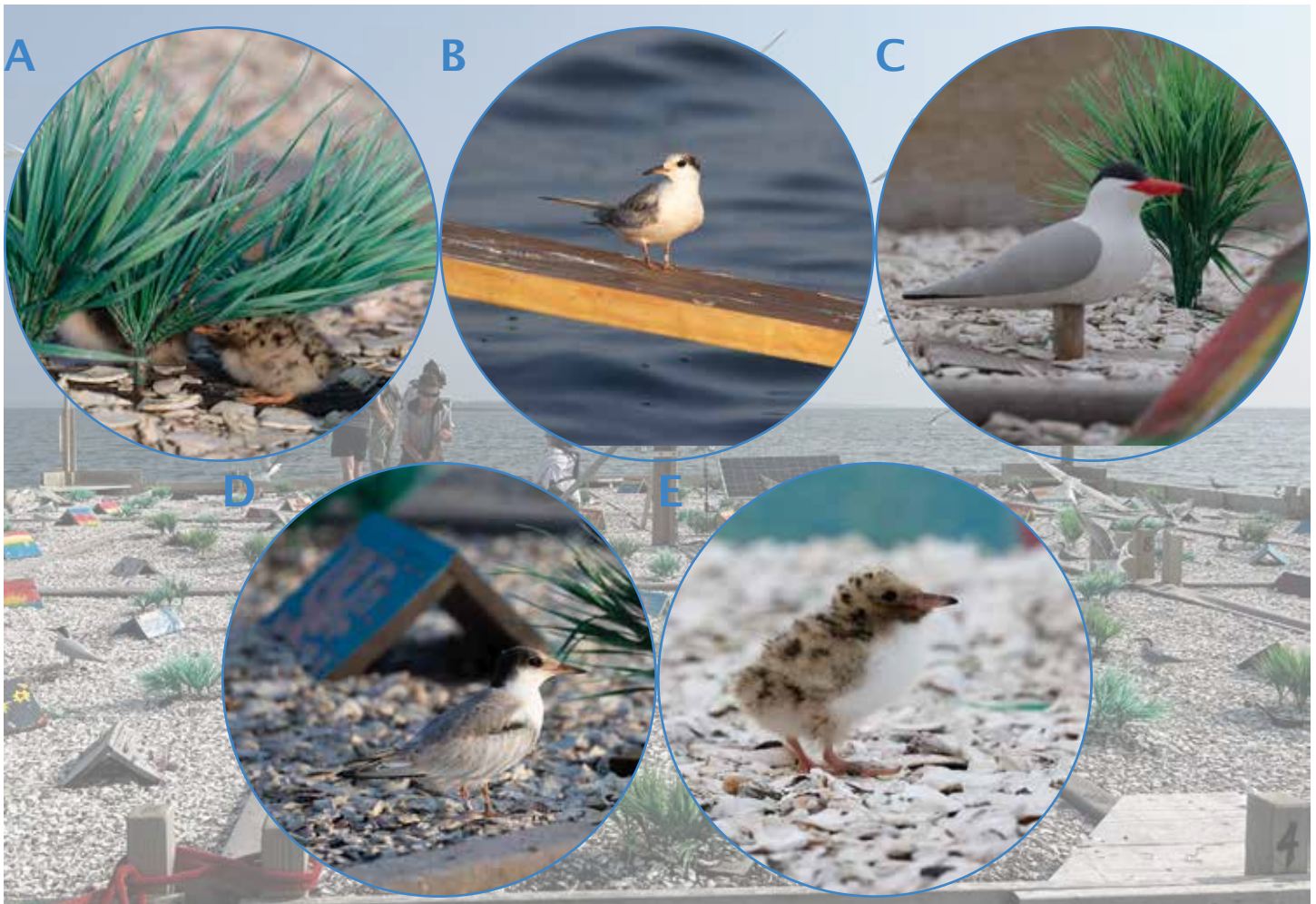


Answers: 1E; 2C; 3B; 4A, 5D

## What's on the Raft?

Everything the scientists put on the raft has a reason. See if you can match the description to the item.

1. Shelters give the birds a place to get out of the direct sun and be safe from predators.
2. Decoys help the birds think that there are already other birds on the raft, letting them know it's a safe place. Scientists also play a lure to attract the birds.
3. Artificial grasses are "planted" because the scientists would not be able to water real grasses on the raft in the bay.
4. Broken shells are used instead of sand that may get blown off by wind.
5. Young birds might be strong enough to fly off the raft but not yet grown enough (or muscular enough) to lift off of the water. The birds can paddle over to the ramp to walk up to the raft. The ramp's slope is the same as the slope of the island.



Answers: 1D; 2C; 3A; 4E, 5B