

# Conserving the grey partridge

## Teachers notes

**The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust** is an independent wildlife conservation charity which carries out scientific research into Britain's game and wildlife. We advise farmers and landowners on improving wildlife habitats and we lobby for agricultural and conservation policies based on science. We employ 14 post-doctoral scientists and 50 other research staff with expertise in areas such as birds, insects, mammals, farming and statistics. We undertake our own research as well as projects funded by contract and grant-aid from Government and private bodies. The Trust is also responsible for a number of Government Biodiversity Action Plan species and is lead partner for grey partridge and joint lead partner for brown hare and black grouse. Our website offers a wide range of research and project material which can be downloaded for your convenience. Other species which we are currently studying include:

grey partridge	red grouse	black grouse	capercaillie	
brown trout	ptarmigan	mountain	hare	pheasant
songbirds	fox	red deer	mink	

A copy of the 'Conserving the grey partridge' leaflet is included in this pack.

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### Worksheet answers

1. **January and February**
2. **On free-draining soil on a slope preferably facing south and with shelter from the prevailing wet weather. (Nests are a shallow scrape concealed in dense vegetation such as rank tussocky grass, herbaceous perennials and the crops themselves.)**
3. **Insects (such as caterpillars, beetles and bugs).**
4. **Herbicides are chemical sprays used to control weeds within a crop. Insecticides are chemical sprays used to control crop-eating insects. Both can break the partridge chicks' food chain. The chicks need insects and the insects need certain plants and weeds to feed on. Without this protein rich diet the chicks become stunted and die.**
5. **Above 90,000 breeding pairs.**



### Notes

**Since the Earth Summit at Rio in 1993 when global conservation aims were declared, there has been a reversal in the government's attitude to environmentally-sound farming and it encourages the industry to put the declarations into action. The UK's Biodiversity Action Plans and the expansion of the Rural Stewardship Scheme (plus equivalents in England and Wales) provide real hope that some damage of past years can be reversed in the medium to long term. The grey partridge was in the first group of species to be given priority under the plan which aims to restore numbers from 65,000 pairs in 2005 to 90,000 pairs nationally by 2010, and to expand its 1990 range.**

**Project pointers: Arrange a visit to a farm where grey partridges are being conserved along with other wildlife.**