

Albatross Nesting Fact Sheet

This document provides information and resources to help teachers respond to questions students may ask as they define problems that scientists might encounter while observing black-browed albatross in the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas).

Anticipated Student Questions	Answers
General questions	Black-browed albatross nest in the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) from September to April. They nest along steep cliffs in cylindrical nests made from mud, guano (bird feces), grasses, and seaweed. The birds reuse the nests throughout their lives, which are approximately 30 years.
What is the weather like?	Scientists are likely to deal with cold, windy conditions while monitoring black-browed albatross nesting sites. Precipitation in the form of snow or rain is possible; however, sea spray along windy sea cliffs provides regular mist, making waterproof layers essential.
How cold is it?	Average summer temperatures remain relatively cold due to the polar climate. For example, the average mean temperature for January (midsummer) is only 49.1°F.
Is it windy?	The Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) are known for their high winds. The annual average wind speed in the town of Stanley is 18.64 mph.
Will they get hungry?	Scientists deal with human needs in the field all the time. They get hungry and thirsty, and they need to use the bathroom. Typically, scientists try to keep their food and waste away from animal colonies to avoid attracting scavengers and spoiling the habitat.
Are there predators?	The large Johnny Rook, or striated caracara, has been known to eat albatross fledglings.
How deep is the ocean there?	The Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) are in a relatively shallow area of the ocean off the coast of South America.
Is the ocean warm or cold?	The ocean water temperature is very cold in the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) because of the islands' proximity to the South Pole.

Additional Resources:

Geography: <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/features/Malvinas>

General information about the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas): <https://falklandsconservation.com>

