

Read the text and do the tasks below.



Voluntourism: how to make a difference!

More and more young people are taking on volunteer work nowadays. Some even travel to the other side of the world and do unpaid work for a charity or other non-profit organisation there. They help to build homes for poor families, teach children English, take care of orphans, or help to protect an endangered species. There is a wide variety of voluntary jobs to choose from.

A number of charity groups organise educational programmes for children around the world. Many students volunteer for these types of projects. They teach subjects like English and Mathematics to children while staying in their community and getting to know the people and their culture. It is also a great opportunity for them to work and train with local teachers and develop their own skills. It is a learning experience for both the children and the teacher.

Young people who are good with their hands or simply would like to help in a very practical way can participate in one of the many construction projects. Several charity organisations help build houses or schools for poor children around the world. In the village of Kamakwie in Sierra Leone, for example, a team of young volunteers built a secondary school for poor orphans.

Other similar projects are going on across poor villages of Africa, making sure that kids get an education.

For people interested in wildlife, conservation groups organise volunteer holidays throughout the world. You can help wildlife research in countries like Kenya and Botswana or protect turtles in Mexico, Zanzibar, or elsewhere. On Redang Island in Malaysia volunteers come from all over the world to help conserve the endangered green turtle. Participants monitor the turtles that come onto the beach and protect them and their eggs. They also get to enjoy the beach and even snorkel with the turtles sometimes.

A volunteer holiday is for people who want to make a difference in the world and are prepared to give up their own time, money, and effort to do it. Volunteers have to be realistic though and understand that they cannot change the world in two or three weeks. To some volunteers it seems that they are not doing much by helping out for only a couple of weeks but, in fact, every bit of help counts. Thanks to young volunteers, the lives of millions of people around the world are improving and, in their eyes, the sun is probably shining brighter than it used to.

1. Read the text and mark the sentences below 1 (true), 2 (false) or 3 (not stated).

- Voluntourism has always been popular with young people.
- You don't need any qualifications to participate in voluntourism.
- Volunteers get paid a small sum in return for their help.
- Teaching as a form of voluntourism is profitable for both sides.
- Building schools in Africa is a good investment for business.
- Wild life volunteering is developed all over the world.
- Some volunteers believe that they can change the world quickly.
- Some volunteers don't feel that they give enough.

2. Complete the sentences with:

difference community foreign improve monitor
non-profit research volunteer.

1. The International Red Cross is a well-known _____ organisation.
2. A team of aid workers are trying to _____ the lives of the people in the village.
3. You can make a _____ in the world by working for a charity.
4. Lots of young people are ready to _____ to help clean up the beach.
5. Everyone living in the _____ would like to make it a better place to live.
6. The students _____ the turtles and try to protect their eggs.
7. Working in a _____ country can be a very worthwhile experience.
8. Environmental organisations are doing wildlife _____ all over the world.

