

Reading

- 1 Read the article. Choose the correct prepositions.

Learning to live with the lemur

When I was three, my family went ¹on/in a trip ²at/to London Zoo. My dad still tells the story of the first animal we saw that day. Nobody knew what it was, until, he says, I suddenly screamed "They're lemurs!" Where, at just three, did I learn lemur? We still have no idea.

Last month I finally got a chance to spend time ³on/with these animals – 30 years after surprising my parents in that zoo. I flew ⁴to/in the island of Madagascar, the home of the lemur. I was visiting a wildlife-conservation project.

When people first arrived on the island, 2,000 years ago, there were hundreds of difference species of lemur. They included the giant lemur – as big as a gorilla, weighing 200 kg. But people hunted the animals and cut down large areas of the lemurs' forests. The giant lemur became extinct in only a few years. Many other species died for similar reasons. And they are still dying.

Now, there are 70 species of the animal, from the tiny 28 g mouse lemur to the famous ring-tailed lemur I probably saw in that zoo. They now live in an area of 6,000 km² – just 10% of the island. Fortunately, the country is trying to protect the lemur. Volunteers are working on a variety of projects: from talking to schools ⁵to/about the environment to actually

counting the number of male and female lemurs in the forests. And the projects are a success. While I was there, I heard stories ⁶about/around the discovery of a new population of bamboo lemurs – the most unusual species on the island. Scientists previously believed there were only 150 of them left.

The charity is looking ⁷for/of 20 volunteers for a project next January. You have to pay ⁸on/for your flights and also £500 for a two-week project. They spend the money ⁹on/with schools and clean water – Madagascar isn't a rich country. Accommodation and meals are free.



The ring-tailed lemur lives in large groups, for up to 20 years.

- 2 Write the correct numbers.

- 1 The number of species of lemur now: _____
- 2 The weight of the giant lemur: _____ kilograms
- 3 How long a ring-tailed lemur can live for: _____ years
- 4 When the writer first saw a real lemur: _____ years ago
- 5 The cost per person for the project: £ _____
- 6 When people first came to Madagascar: _____ years ago
- 7 The number of volunteers on the next project: _____
- 8 The weight of a mouse lemur: _____ grams
- 9 The size of Madagascar: _____ km²

- 3 Read the article again and answer the questions.

- 1 When did the giant lemur become extinct?

- 2 Why did many species of lemur become extinct?

- 3 How do the projects try to protect lemurs?

- 4 What good news does the writer have about the bamboo lemur?

- 5 What does it cost someone to do a two-week lemur conservation project in Madagascar?
