Reading

1 Read the article. Choose the correct prepositions.

Learning to live with the lemur

When I was three, my family went [1]*on/in* a trip [2]*at/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 [3]*on/with* these animals – 30 years after surprising my parents in that zoo. I flew [4]*to/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 km^2 – 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 [5]*to/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 [6]*about/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 [7]*for/of* 20 volunteers for a project next January. You have to pay [8]*on/for* your flights and also £500 for a two-week project. They spend the money [9]*on/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: _____ km^2

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?

LIVEWORKSHEETS