

Anyone Up for Counting Seals on a Remote Island?

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. spot (verb) /spat/: To see or notice something or someone, often by chance or observation.
Example: I spotted a rare bird in the forest while hiking.
2. migrating (adjective) /'maɪ.ɡreɪ.tɪŋ/: Relating to the seasonal movement of animals or people from one region or habitat to another.
Example: The migrating birds flew south for the winter to find warmer temperatures.
3. compile (verb) /kəm'paɪl/: To gather and collect information, data, or items from various sources and organize them into a single list, document, or collection.
Example: She had to compile a report using data from multiple research studies.
4. sizable (adjective) /'saɪzəbəl/: Of considerable size or extent; fairly large.
Example: They received a sizable donation to support their charity work.
5. commence (verb) /kə'mens/: To begin or start something, often referring to an event, process, or activity.
Example: The graduation ceremony will commence at 2 PM.



Would you like to spend some time away from people? A nature charity is searching for two volunteers to live on a small island in the Irish Sea for nine weeks. Every autumn, Manx Wildlife Trust sends volunteers to count seals on an island known as the Calf of Man. Volunteers will receive approximately \$50 each week for food and free accommodation. They'll be responsible for counting the number of seals born on the island and taking photos to identify any returning seals from previous years. They'll also capture pictures of baby seals with their mothers.

In 2021, over 500 adult seals were **spotted** on the island, along with 62 baby seals. The island, which measures just a little over 2 kilometers in length, is a popular spot for bird-watchers due to its resident bird population and the numerous **migrating** birds that pass through. Volunteers should be prepared to walk at least 6 kilometers each day. Following their stay, they will have two weeks to **compile** a report based on the data they collect.

Manx Wildlife Trust is a nature charity located on the Isle of Man, a **sizable** island in the Irish Sea between Great Britain and Ireland, with a population of approximately 85,000 people. The Calf of Man is situated about 500 meters off the island's southern coast.

Interested applicants sent their applications to Manx Wildlife to become volunteers of this project. Two selected individuals **commenced** their work on the island on September 5.

DISCUSSION

1. Would you like to live on a remote island for nine weeks? Why or why not?
2. What kind of wildlife would you hope to see on the island?
3. If you were a volunteer, what name would you give to a baby seal?
4. How do you think volunteers can count seals without disturbing them?
5. Have you ever volunteered for a nature-related activity? Share your experience.
6. What do you think the volunteers will enjoy most about their time on the island?
7. If you had the chance to study any type of wildlife, what would it be and why?