

## Indonesia attempts to count all its islands

9th June, 2017



Indonesia has embarked on the task of counting its islands in order to better protect its territory and marine resources. It hopes to locate and name an additional 1,700 islands in time for the UN Conference

on the Standardization of Geographical Names in August. Indonesia wants to claim sovereignty and fishing rights in the waters surrounding the islands, many of which its neighbors also claim. The Indonesian government says illegal fishing in its waters is costing billions of dollars in lost revenue each year. A fisheries spokeswoman told the BBC: "Sixty per cent of islands in Indonesia don't have a name or officially have legal status, so they can easily be taken or claimed by another country."

Indonesia is the world's largest archipelago. At the last UN conference on geographical names in 2012, Indonesia registered 13,466 islands. A law in 1996 estimated that the number of islands was 17,508. The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea defines an island as, "a naturally formed area of land, surrounded by water, which is still exposed at high tide". A spokesman from Indonesia's Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries explained the scale of the task the counting team had. He said: "We have to visit every one of these islands, and then we note the coordinates, the name, the meaning of the name, the history of the land and describe the landscape and its geographical history...all that in great detail."

Sources: [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [ft.com](http://ft.com) / [intimes.co.uk](http://intimes.co.uk)

## Writing

An island should belong to the nearest country. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

task / islands / marine / resources / sovereignty / fishing / billions / legal status / archipelago / conference / geographical / surrounded / high tide / counting / detail

## True / False

- Indonesia wants to name 1,700 extra islands as their own. T / F
- Many of Indonesia's neighbors also claim islands Indonesia wants. T / F
- Indonesia says illegal fishing costs the country billions of dollars. T / F
- Sixty per cent of islands in Indonesia have an official name. T / F
- Indonesia registered over 13,000 islands at a 2012 conference. T / F
- A UN law says land must only be exposed at low tide to be an island. T / F
- A spokesman suggested the counting team had a fairly easy task. T / F
- The counting team has to give very rough details to the UN. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1. <b>embarked</b>    | a. standing   |
| 2. <b>protect</b>     | b. encircling |
| 3. <b>sovereignty</b> | c. precision  |
| 4. <b>surrounding</b> | d. control    |
| 5. <b>status</b>      | e. explains   |
| 6. <b>registered</b>  | f. started    |
| 7. <b>defines</b>     | g. write down |
| 8. <b>scale</b>       | h. recorded   |
| 9. <b>note</b>        | i. safeguard  |
| 10. <b>detail</b>     | j. size       |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- What other archipelagos do you know of?
- What is your favourite island?
- What are the disadvantages for a country of having many islands?
- What do people like islands so much?
- What would it be like to work on the counting team?
- What would it be like to live on a small island?
- What questions would you like to ask the head of the counting team?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. counting its islands in order to better | a. of land                  |
| 2. marine                                  | b. fishing                  |
| 3. locate and name an                      | c. status                   |
| 4. illegal                                 | d. of the name              |
| 5. legal                                   | e. resources                |
| 6. Indonesia is the world's largest        | f. by water                 |
| 7. a naturally formed area                 | g. protect its territory    |
| 8. surrounded                              | h. detail                   |
| 9. the meaning                             | i. archipelago              |
| 10. in great                               | j. additional 1,700 islands |

## Discussion – Student B

- Why doesn't Indonesia know how many islands it has?
- How will registering islands help Indonesia protect its territory?
- How can countries resolve territorial disputes?
- Should islands belong to the country they are nearest to?
- Should Indonesia get back the billions of dollars in lost fishing revenue?
- How will Indonesia name the islands it claims?
- What do you know about Indonesia?
- What are the benefits of a country having many islands?

## Spelling

- amdkebre on the task of counting its islands
- protect its rtoytitre
- marine csurosree
- claim vsngoeierty and fishing rights
- in the waters ngorsurniud the islands
- alicffiyol have legal status
- the world's largest gcappearoihl
- Indonesia eirtsgedre 13,466 islands
- iatmedets that the number of islands...
- which is still oepxsde at high tide
- then we note the iedcornsato
- iedsercb the landscape

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. d	4. b	5. a
6. h	7. e	8. j	9. g	10. c

## Role Play

### Role A – The Sea

You think the sea is the best thing about islands. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least alluring of these (and why): fish, beaches or peace and quiet.

### Role B – Fish

You think fish is the best thing about islands. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least alluring of these (and why): the sea, beaches or peace and quiet.

### Role C – Beaches

You think beaches is the best thing about islands. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least alluring of these (and why): fish, the sea or peace and quiet.

### Role D – Peace and Quiet

You think peace and quiet is the best thing about islands. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least alluring of these (and why): fish, beaches or the sea.

## Speaking – Islands

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about islands at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| • views           | • the sea |
| • peace and quiet | • sunsets |
| • romance         | • fish    |
| • safety          | • beaches |

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.