

The island that changes nationality twice a year

Do you know any islands that are shared by two countries?

Vocabulary

1. arrangement 2. cooperation 3. migrants 4. nationality 5. diplomacy 6. Treaty

True Story

Pheasant Island, also called Isla de los Faisanes, is a small island in the Bidasoa River between France and Spain. This island is special because it changes _____ twice a year. It belongs to France for six months and then to Spain for the next six months. This unique _____ started in 1659 when the _____ of the Pyrenees was signed there, ending a war between the two countries.

The island is a symbol of peace and _____ between France and Spain. It is not well-known and is usually closed to the public, except on special days. Despite some modern problems, like _____ trying to cross the river, Pheasant Island shows how two nations can share land peacefully. As one local said, "Pheasant Island is a powerful reminder of _____ and respect."

Quiz

1. Where is Pheasant Island located?
2. How often does Pheasant Island change nationality?
3. What is Pheasant Island a symbol of?

True or False

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Pheasant Island is always open to the public. | True False |
| 2. The Treaty of the Pyrenees ended a war between Spain and France. | True False |
| 3. Pheasant Island belongs to Spain for six minutes each year. | True False |

Conversation

- A: Did you know Pheasant Island changes nationality?
 B: Really? What do you mean?
 A: Well, it swaps between France and Spain every six months.
 B: Wow, that's amazing. Why do they do that?
 A: It started in 1659 when the war ended.
 B: Interesting... I know some other countries that could try that.

Discussion

1. What are some islands that different countries claim to own?
2. Do you think it's a good idea for countries to share land?
3. What other ways can countries show cooperation? (E.g. China sends pandas.)
4. If you owned a small, empty island, what would you do with it?