How many monsters are there on Beast Island?

Right now?

Sure.

Do we count as one monster or two?

???

Monsters come and go all the time. I don’t think I could count them all.

You might not know the exact number, but you could estimate.

Huh?

Estimating means using what you know to make a good guess.

Right, but put some thought into it.

Okay, then, I figure there are about 503,702 beasts on the island.

How’d you come up with that number?

Close Enough

TO ESTIMATE MEANS TO FIND A NUMBER THAT IS CLOSE TO EXACT.

AN ESTIMATE IS A NUMBER THAT IS CLOSE TO AN EXACT AMOUNT.
There are about 140,000 reptosaurs...

...130,000 terraquatics...

...maybe 120,000 woolies...

...around 70,000 mythicas...

...and 40,000 pods.

There are about 3,000 avians...

...700 cybots...

...and us! That makes 503,702 beasts.

That’s 500,000. What about the other 3,702?

\[
\begin{align*}
140,000 \\
130,000 \\
120,000 \\
70,000 \\
40,000 \\
\hline
500,000
\end{align*}
\]

That’s pretty good, but when you estimate, you usually round your answer.

A rounded answer usually ends in one or more zeroes.

That makes sense. Zero is the roundest number.

We’ll explain how to round in the next section.
Compared to 500,000, I guess 3,702 is too small to matter much. So we can say that there are about 500,000 monsters on Beast Island?

The numbers were a lot easier to add that way!...to 500,000.

Right. Making numbers easier to work with is one good reason to round. One monster is not enough to change our estimate.

But you didn’t round your answer.

Since 503,702 is such a big number, it’s best just to round 503,702...

You already rounded the numbers for each type of beast...

...140,000 reptosaurs, 130,000 teraquatics, and 120,000 woolies.

What if a new one is born?

Yep. Since we don’t know exactly how many monsters there are, 500,000 is just as good a guess as 503,702.

One monster isn’t it cute?

Good.

Yep.

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