(anonymous user #1056941) 12

--- Day 6: Lanternfish ---

The sea floor is getting steeper. Maybe the sleigh keys got carried this

A massive school of glowing lanternfish swims past. They must spawn quickly to reach such large numbers - maybe exponentially quickly? You should model their growth rate to be sure.

Although you know nothing about this specific species of lanternfish, you

However, this process isn't necessarily synchronized between every another lanternfish, while another might have 4. So, you can model each fish as a single number that represents the number of days until it creates a new lanternfish.

Furthermore, you reason, a new lanternfish would surely need slightly longer before it's capable of producing more lanternfish: two more days for

- create a new lanternfish with an internal timer of 8.
- of 5, and the second lanternfish would have an internal timer of 7.

A lanternfish that creates a new fish resets its timer to 🗟, not 7 (because

list of the ages of several hundred nearby lanternfish (your puzzle input). For example, suppose you were given the following list:

3,4,3,1,2

an internal timer of 2. Simulating these fish over several days would proceed as follows:

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Initial state: 3,4,3,1,2
After 9 days: 1,2,1,6,0,1,2,3,3,4,8
After 14 days: 3,4,3,1,2,3,4,5,5,6,3,4,5,5,5,6,6,7,7,8
After 15 days: 2,3,2,0,1,2,3,4,4,5,2,3,4,4,4,5,5,6,6,7
Each day, a 0 becomes a 6 and adds a new 8 to the end of the list, while
each other number decreases by 1 if it was present at the start of the day.
In this example, after 18 days, there are a total of \boxed{26} fish. After 80
days, there would be a total of 5934.
Find a way to simulate lanternfish. How many lanternfish would there be
after 80 days?
Your puzzle answer was 352151.
--- Part Two ---
Suppose the lanternfish live forever and have unlimited food and space.
After 256 days in the example above, there would be a total of 26984457539
lanternfish!
How many lanternfish would there be after 256 days?
Your puzzle answer was 1601616884019.
Both parts of this puzzle are complete! They provide two gold stars: **
If you still want to see it, you can get your puzzle input.
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