Write From Text Evidence

Grade 4 Writing Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Read the text. Circle the detail that best supports each claim.

READ THIS FIRST

Lights Out for Sea Turtles

Every summer, sea turtles crawl onto beaches to lay their eggs. A mother turtle digs a hole in the sand with her back flippers. She lays about one hundred eggs, covers them, and returns to the ocean. In Florida, nesting season runs from about May to October.

About two months later, the baby turtles hatch. Each hatchling is only about two inches long. They usually climb out of the nest at night, when the sand is cool. Then they face their first big challenge. They must find the ocean, and they cannot see it from the nest.

Scientists have learned how they do it. Hatchlings crawl toward the brightest part of the sky. On a natural beach, that is the sky over the water. Moonlight and starlight reflect off the waves. The land side is darker because of dunes and plants.

Bright lights from buildings can confuse the hatchlings. A porch light or a parking lot can look brighter than the sea. Then the turtles crawl the wrong way. They may end up on roads or in yards, far from the water.

Many beach towns now ask people to help. During nesting season, homes and hotels close their curtains at night. Some towns use special amber lights that turtles do not notice as much. In some places, volunteers walk the beach each morning. They mark new nests with tape so people do not step on them.

These changes seem to help. Where towns turned down their lights, fewer hatchlings were found heading inland.

Years later, some of those hatchlings will return. Scientists think female turtles use Earth's magnetic field like a map. It helps them find the same stretch of coast where they hatched.

1. Which detail best supports this claim: "Hatchlings depend on light to find the water"?

   They mark new nests with tape so people do not step on them.

   Hatchlings crawl toward the brightest part of the sky.

   A mother turtle digs a hole in the sand with her back flippers.

   They usually climb out of the nest at night, when the sand is cool.

2. Which detail best supports this claim: "Some towns changed their lighting to help turtles"?

In Florida, nesting season runs from about May to October each year.

A porch light or a parking lot can look brighter than the sea.

Some towns use special amber lights that turtles do not notice as much.

Each hatchling is only about two inches long, and they climb out at night.

3. Which detail best supports this claim: "Hatchlings face a hard challenge when they leave the nest"?

A mother turtle lays about one hundred eggs and covers them.

They must find the ocean, and they cannot see it from the nest.

Scientists think female turtles use Earth's magnetic field like a map.

About two months after the eggs are laid, the baby turtles hatch.

4. Which detail best supports this claim: "The lights-out efforts seem to be working"?

On a natural beach, the brightest part of the sky is over the water.

Bright lights from buildings can confuse the hatchlings.

Where towns turned down their lights, fewer hatchlings were found heading inland.

During nesting season, homes and hotels close their curtains at night.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Writing Worksheet

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