Write From Text Evidence

Grade 4 Writing Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Read the text. Circle the explanation that connects each claim and its evidence.

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. Claim: "Buildings near the beach can put hatchlings in danger." Evidence: "A porch light or a parking lot can look brighter than the sea." Which explanation connects them?

   They crawl toward bright light, so they may head to buildings.

   Parking lots are the places where mother turtles lay most of their eggs.

   Porch lights are too hot for the hatchlings to crawl near.

   Hatchlings like dry buildings better than the wet ocean.

2. Claim: "Natural beaches help hatchlings find the sea." Evidence: "Moonlight and starlight reflect off the waves." Which explanation connects them?

   The waves make a loud noise at night, so hatchlings crawl toward the sound.

   Moonlight warms the sand near the water, so hatchlings crawl toward the warm sand.

   Waves bounce back the moon's light, so hatchlings can hear where the water is.

   The sky over the water is brightest, so hatchlings crawl toward it.

3. Claim: "Volunteers' work helps the nests." Evidence: "They mark new nests with tape so people do not step on them." Which explanation connects them?

   The tape holds the sand in place around the nest so the eggs stay warm.

   People who see the tape on the beach learn how to dig their own nests.

   People can see where the nests are, so they know not to step there.

   The tape tells the hatchlings which way to crawl to reach the ocean.

4. Claim: "Turning down lights keeps hatchlings away from danger." Evidence: "They may end up on roads or in yards, far from the water." Which explanation connects them?

   Roads and yards are safe places for hatchlings to rest after the long night.

   Hatchlings go to roads because they like the warm pavement better than sand.

   With less light from land, hatchlings are less likely to head toward roads.

   Dim lights keep hatchlings inside the nest until the morning comes again.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Writing Worksheet

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