How a Text Is Organized

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

Read the text. Circle what each paragraph does.

READ THIS FIRST

Bringing Back the Dark

For most of human history, people could look up on a clear night and see thousands of stars. The Milky Way stretched across the sky like a pale band of mist. Today, most people in the United States cannot see it from where they live. The problem is light pollution, and it is growing.

Light pollution is too much artificial light shining where it is not needed. Streetlights, signs, parking lots and buildings all send light into the night. Much of this light shines sideways or straight up. It bounces off dust and water droplets in the air. As a result, the sky over a city glows. That glow hides all but the brightest stars.

The problem affects more than stargazers. Many animals depend on darkness. Baby sea turtles hatch on beaches at night and crawl toward the brightest horizon. Normally, that is the moonlit ocean. Near bright hotels and roads, however, some turtles crawl the wrong way. Many birds migrate at night and use the stars to find their way. City lights can confuse them, and they may circle lit buildings until they are worn out.

People are affected too. Our bodies use darkness as a signal that it is time to sleep. Bright light at night can make it harder to fall asleep.

Fortunately, light pollution is one of the easiest kinds of pollution to fix. Unlike trash or smoke, it disappears the moment a light is changed or switched off. Towns have tried several solutions.

The first solution is to point lights downward. A shielded streetlight has a cover on top, so its light falls on the street instead of the sky. A second solution is to use only as much light as is needed. Some cities dim their streetlights late at night or use motion sensors. A third solution is to choose warmer, yellow-orange bulbs. They scatter less in the air than bright blue-white ones.

Some places have gone even further. Flagstaff, Arizona, passed one of the world's first outdoor lighting rules in 1958. In 2001, it became the world's first International Dark Sky City. On a clear night there, people can still see the Milky Way from town.

Along some beaches in Florida, towns ask people to turn off or cover beach-facing lights during turtle nesting season. In many cities, tall buildings dim their lights in spring and fall, when birds migrate.

Light pollution grew slowly over many years. With good choices, though, the dark sky can come back quickly.

1. What does the first paragraph do?

It shows what people lost and names the problem.

It lists the solutions that towns have tried.

It explains how sky glow forms over a city.

It describes how animals use the dark to survive.

2. What does the second paragraph do?

It names the many animals that are harmed at night.

It says what light pollution is and how sky glow starts.

It tells how bright light affects people's sleep.

It describes the towns that have fixed the problem.

3. What does the fifth paragraph do?

It gives the history of one town's lighting rule.

It describes the first solution in detail.

It turns from the problem to say it can be fixed.

It explains how birds find their way at night.

4. What does the seventh paragraph do?

It lists three kinds of bulbs for streetlights.

It explains how sky glow hides the faint stars.

It shows how bright lights confuse sea turtles.

It gives a real town where the solutions worked.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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