Lights After Dark

Trace how two sources support a clear explanation.

5.LF.35 "Write informative or explanatory texts using multiple sources to examine a topic, conveying ideas and information clearly and incorporating a strong organizational structure, relevant details, and elaboration."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one sentence in each paragraph that states its main idea, circle the two source names, and number one supporting detail from each source 1 and 2. Use your marks to trace how the explanation moves from a problem to evidence to a response.

When City Lights Meet Night Flights

1 On a spring night, a small songbird flies over a bright city. The bird is traveling to a nesting area, but the glow below can change its path. Many birds migrate after sunset, when skies are usually dark. To explain why city lights matter, we need to look at two kinds of information: how birds travel and what people can do about outdoor lighting.

2 Cornell Lab of Ornithology reports that many migrating birds fly at night. Its research also shows that bright artificial lights can attract and confuse these travelers. A bird drawn toward a lit building may circle it instead of moving on. This detail helps explain why even a light far above a sidewalk can affect a bird's journey. The problem is not just the brightness people notice on the ground.

3 The National Audubon Society recommends turning off unneeded lights during migration, especially on tall buildings. Its advice gives a practical response to the problem Cornell describes. A school could switch off empty-room lights after evening events and check that outdoor lights shine only where needed. Together, the two sources show a clear chain: night flights create a risk near bright buildings, and careful lighting can reduce that risk.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the first paragraph prepare you for the facts in the next two paragraphs?

2. Which detail from Cornell helps explain why a bird might not keep traveling toward its nesting area? Explain the link.

3. How does Audubon's advice build on the problem described by Cornell?

4. Why does the writer include the school example after Audubon's advice?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph explaining a different way a school could make nighttime lighting safer for migrating birds. Use a fact from Cornell and advice from Audubon, then describe a specific school action not named in the passage and explain how it addresses the problem.

ANSWER KEY # Lights After Dark

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one sentence in each paragraph that states its main idea, circle the two source names, and number one supporting detail from each source 1 and 2. Use your marks to trace how the explanation moves from a problem to evidence to a response. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the first paragraph prepare you for the facts in the next two paragraphs?	**It introduces the problem of city lights changing a bird's path and tells readers to expect information about bird travel and outdoor lighting.**
2	Which detail from Cornell helps explain why a bird might not keep traveling toward its nesting area? Explain the link.	**Bright artificial lights can attract and confuse migrating birds, so a bird may circle a lit building instead of continuing its journey.**
3	How does Audubon's advice build on the problem described by Cornell?	**Cornell describes how lights can confuse migrating birds. Audubon recommends turning off unneeded lights to reduce that risk.**
4	Why does the writer include the school example after Audubon's advice?	**It gives specific ways a familiar place could put Audubon's advice into practice.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Many birds fly at night, and Cornell Lab of Ornithology says bright artificial lights can attract and confuse them. The National Audubon Society advises people to turn off lights they do not need during migration. Our school could put a timer on its glowing front sign so the sign goes dark at dusk during spring and fall migration. This would remove one bright spot that might pull traveling birds away from their route.

Accept different underlined sentences if they capture each paragraph's main idea, and accept any accurate detail attributed to the correct source. In Part 3, look for both sources, a new specific school action, and an explanation connecting that action to the risk.