Turtle Word Trails

Decode longer words by noticing useful word parts.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.3 "Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each word that ends in -ment, -ful, or -less. Underline the base word inside each circled word to help you read and understand it.

A Sea Turtle Journey

1. Each summer, female sea turtles return to sandy beaches. They dig nests above the high-tide line and lay round, leathery eggs. After about two months, tiny hatchlings break free from their shells. Most hatchlings move toward the brighter horizon over the ocean. This nighttime movement helps them avoid some daytime predators, including shorebirds and crabs.

2. Inside a nest, warmth affects egg development. In many sea turtle species, warmer nests usually produce more females, while cooler nests usually produce more males. Researchers collect information about nest temperatures and hatching success. This information guides protection plans for beaches where lights, trash, or construction can confuse hatchlings as they crawl toward the water.

3. People can support turtles by keeping beaches dark and clean during nesting season. A reusable water bottle and a trash bag can reduce harmful litter. On some beaches, volunteers place harmless barriers around marked nests to keep vehicles away. These small actions give hatchlings a safer path from the sand to the sea at night each year.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In the word movement, what is the base word, and what is the suffix?

2. How many syllables are in development? Write the word with syllable breaks.

3. What does the suffix -less tell you about the word harmless?

4. Which two smaller words make the compound word nighttime?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a two-sentence beach sign using two facts from the passage. Include one new word made from a base word in the passage and a suffix, then show the base word and suffix in parentheses.

ANSWER KEY

Turtle Word Trails

GRADE 4 · RF.4.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each word that ends in -ment, -ful, or -less. Underline the base word inside each circled word to help you read and understand it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In the word movement, what is the base word, and what is the suffix?	**Base word: move. Suffix: -ment.**
2	How many syllables are in development? Write the word with syllable breaks.	**4 syllables: de-vel-op-ment.**
3	What does the suffix -less tell you about the word harmless?	**It means without harm.**
4	Which two smaller words make the compound word nighttime?	**night and time**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Hatchlings move toward the brighter horizon over the ocean. Beach darkness (dark + -ness) is important because lights can confuse hatchlings.

Accept accurate passage facts and a real suffix word built from a passage base word. The student should correctly identify the base word and suffix in parentheses.