Beach Comma Patrol

Practice commas that make sentence parts clear.

ELA.5.C.3 "Following Conventions"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle every comma in the passage. Write I above a comma after introductory words, L above a comma in a list, and J above a comma before a joining word that connects two complete thoughts.

Night Patrol

1. On a warm summer night, Maya joined a sea turtle patrol on Florida's Atlantic coast. Volunteers watched the beach, recorded nest locations, and kept people away from the dunes. A loggerhead turtle crawled from the waves, but the group stayed quiet. Its heavy flippers pushed sand aside as it made a nest above the high-tide line.

2. Before sunrise, the volunteers measured the turtle's tracks and covered their footprints. They carried red flashlights, clipboards, and water bottles for the long walk. The beach looked empty, yet small signs told a story. Fresh sand covered the nest, and a wide trail led back to the ocean at the far end of the beach.

3. Sea turtles need quiet beaches on crowded coasts, so patrols ask visitors to dim bright lights. Plastic bags, bottles, and fishing line can harm turtles and other animals. In the morning, Maya shared the patrol's notes with a local scientist. Together, they hoped the careful records would help protect future nests along this busy coast each year.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Copy the introductory words and comma at the start of the first paragraph.

2. Copy the sentence in paragraph 2 that uses commas to separate the three items the volunteers carried.

3. In paragraph 2, what joining word comes after the comma in the sentence that begins, “The beach looked empty”?

4. In paragraph 3, why is there a comma before “so” in the first sentence?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about helping an animal or caring for a place. Include one comma after introductory words, commas in a list of three items, and one comma before and, but, or so that joins two complete thoughts.

ANSWER KEY

Beach Comma Patrol

GRADE 5 · ELA.5.C.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle every comma in the passage. Write I above a comma after introductory words, L above a comma in a list, and J above a comma before a joining word that connects two complete thoughts. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy the introductory words and comma at the start of the first paragraph.	**On a warm summer night,**
2	Copy the sentence in paragraph 2 that uses commas to separate the three items the volunteers carried.	**They carried red flashlights, clipboards, and water bottles for the long walk.**
3	In paragraph 2, what joining word comes after the comma in the sentence that begins, “The beach looked empty”?	**yet**
4	In paragraph 3, why is there a comma before “so” in the first sentence?	**The comma comes before so because so joins two complete thoughts.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After school, I cleaned the stream near my house. I collected cans, wrappers, and plastic bottles from the bank. The water looked clearer, so I asked my neighbors to help next week.

Accept correct labels for commas after introductory words, commas in lists, and commas before joining words that connect complete thoughts. For the open task, accept any three related sentences that correctly use all three required comma patterns.