Listening Hunters

See how titles and sections organize information.

ELA.6.R.2.1 "Explain how individual text sections and/or features convey meaning in texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the three section headings. Circle one sentence in each section that tells the section's main idea, then notice how the headings and sentences work together to organize the information.

Bats: Listening Hunters

1 Finding Food at Dusk As daylight fades, many bats leave their roosts to search for insects. A little brown bat can eat mosquitoes, moths, and other small flying insects. It does not need bright light to hunt. Instead, it sends out high-pitched calls and listens for echoes that bounce back from nearby objects. This skill, called echolocation, helps the bat notice an insect's location and movement in the dark. Its large ears collect these returning sounds. Different echoes can reveal whether prey is close or far away.

2 A Built-In Signal System Echolocation works because sound travels outward in waves. When a call hits an insect, a leaf, or a wall, part of the sound returns to the bat. The returning echo reaches the bat after a short delay. An echo from a close object returns sooner than one from a distant object. By comparing echoes, the bat can adjust its flight path and open its mouth at the right moment to catch prey during a fast chase.

3 Why the Details Matter Bats are important members of many ecosystems. By eating insects, they can help limit some insect populations. In some places, bats also pollinate flowers or spread seeds. Scientists also study bats to learn how animals use sound to navigate. The details in the earlier sections show how echolocation helps a bat hunt. This final section connects that hunting skill to the bat's role in nature and to questions scientists investigate. These actions affect plants and food webs.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the title, "Bats: Listening Hunters," prepare you for the information in the passage?

2. How does the heading "Finding Food at Dusk" help you understand the first section?

3. How do the details about close and distant objects help convey the meaning of the section "A Built-In Signal System"?

4. How does the final section connect the earlier sections to a larger idea?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a fourth section for this passage about a different bat topic. Include a heading and exactly two factual sentences, then add a third sentence explaining how your heading helps readers understand the section.

ANSWER KEY

Listening Hunters

GRADE 6 · ELA.6.R.2.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the three section headings. Circle one sentence in each section that tells the section's main idea, then notice how the headings and sentences work together to organize the information. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the title, "Bats: Listening Hunters," prepare you for the information in the passage?	**It prepares the reader to learn that bats use listening, or echoes, to hunt for food.**
2	How does the heading "Finding Food at Dusk" help you understand the first section?	**It signals that the section will explain how bats search for and find food at night.**
3	How do the details about close and distant objects help convey the meaning of the section "A Built-In Signal System"?	**They explain that the timing of echoes helps a bat tell how far away an object is, which helps it hunt.**
4	How does the final section connect the earlier sections to a larger idea?	**It connects echolocation and hunting to bats' roles in ecosystems and to scientific study.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Protecting Bat Homes Bats need safe roosts, such as caves, tree cavities, or buildings, where they can rest. People can protect bats by avoiding disturbance of roosts and by keeping pesticides from reducing their insect food. The heading shows that this section explains ways people can help bats.

Accept answers that accurately explain how the title, headings, and sections guide the reader and connect ideas. For Part 3, accept a relevant heading, two accurate bat facts, and a clear explanation of how the heading conveys the section's topic.