Toads on the Move

Use text clues to explain what happens at a toad crossing.

RI.3.1 "Ask and answer questions, and make and support logical inferences to construct meaning from the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two clues that show why crossing the road is risky, and circle two clues that show how people help toads cross safely.

A Safer Way to the Pond

1 Each spring, many toads leave the woods and travel to a pond to lay eggs. They often move on damp nights, when their skin is less likely to dry out. One route crosses a busy road. Toads move slowly, and drivers may not see their small bodies in the dark. For a toad, reaching the pond can be a risky trip.

2 In one town, people built a short tunnel under the road. A low fence runs along each side of the road and leads to the tunnel opening. When a toad reaches the fence, it cannot hop straight onto the road. It can follow the fence until it finds the tunnel. The tunnel lets the toad pass beneath the cars instead of in front of them.

3 On rainy spring evenings, volunteers check the crossing. They carry any toads they find on the road to the side the toads were heading toward. They also count the toads they see near the tunnel each year. If fewer toads appear one spring, the counts can help the town notice a change. People can then look for a cause, such as a damaged fence.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why might a toad be in danger even if a driver is watching the road? Use two clues from the passage.

2. What might happen if the tunnel were there but the fence were missing? Use a clue from the passage.

3. Why might a volunteer carry a toad toward the pond instead of back toward the woods in spring? Use a clue from the passage.

4. What might volunteers think if they counted far fewer toads near the tunnel one spring? Use a clue from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a new how or why question about the passage that is different from the four above. Answer it with an idea you figure out and two clues from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Toads on the Move

GRADE 3 · RI.3.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two clues that show why crossing the road is risky, and circle two clues that show how people help toads cross safely. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why might a toad be in danger even if a driver is watching the road? Use two clues from the passage.	**A driver might miss a toad because its body is small and it crosses in the dark. The toad also moves slowly.**
2	What might happen if the tunnel were there but the fence were missing? Use a clue from the passage.	**More toads might hop onto the road instead of finding the tunnel. The fence keeps them off the road and guides them to the opening.**
3	Why might a volunteer carry a toad toward the pond instead of back toward the woods in spring? Use a clue from the passage.	**The toad is likely traveling to the pond to lay eggs, as toads do each spring.**
4	What might volunteers think if they counted far fewer toads near the tunnel one spring? Use a clue from the passage.	**They might think something has changed at the crossing and check for a cause, such as a damaged fence.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Why might volunteers visit on rainy evenings instead of hot afternoons? Toads often travel on damp nights because their skin is less likely to dry out. Volunteers check the crossing to help toads on the road, so rainy evenings are a good time to find them.

Accept other reasonable inferences when students support them with passage details. For Your Turn, check that the question is new and the answer uses two relevant clues.