Crossing to Safety

Use what you know and clues in a text to draw conclusions.

RI.4.10 "Routinely and flexibly develop and apply background knowledge along with a variety of comprehension strategies to understand and analyze grade-appropriate, complex informational text independently."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a problem roads cause for animals, circle two details about how crossings help, and write 1 and 2 beside two different clues people can use to check whether a crossing works.

A Safer Way Across

1 At dusk, a fox follows a familiar trail toward a stream. Then it reaches a new road. Roads can cut through the places animals use to find food, water, and shelter. Crossing traffic is dangerous, but staying on one side may leave an animal without what it needs. Wildlife crossings give animals a route over or under a road without stepping into traffic.

2 A wildlife bridge can be covered with soil and plants, making it feel more like the land around it. Fences along the road guide animals toward the bridge instead of letting them wander onto the pavement. Frogs need moisture to keep their skin from drying out, so they may use a shaded, damp tunnel beneath the road. Builders choose a crossing near paths animals already follow, so animals are more likely to find it.

3 How can people tell if the plan helps? Cameras can record animals using a bridge or tunnel. These pictures show which kinds of animals visit, but they do not prove that every animal crosses safely. To check whether the road has become safer, people can also compare reports of animal-vehicle crashes from before and after the crossing was built. Both kinds of evidence tell more than one clue alone.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why might the fox need to cross the road even though traffic is dangerous? Use a detail from the passage.

2. How do a wildlife bridge and the fences beside it work together to help animals?

3. Why might a frog use a tunnel beneath the road on a sunny day? Use two clues from the passage.

4. A camera shows deer using a bridge. Does that prove the road is safer? Explain what else people could check.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a new road separates nesting woods from a meadow where animals feed. In three or four sentences, propose a safe crossing and explain how people could test it. Use two details from the passage and one thing you already know about animals.

ANSWER KEY

Crossing to Safety

GRADE 4 · RI.4.10

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a problem roads cause for animals, circle two details about how crossings help, and write 1 and 2 beside two different clues people can use to check whether a crossing works. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why might the fox need to cross the road even though traffic is dangerous? Use a detail from the passage.	**The fox is heading toward a stream and may need to cross the road to reach water.**
2	How do a wildlife bridge and the fences beside it work together to help animals?	**The fences guide animals away from the pavement and toward the bridge, which lets them cross above traffic.**
3	Why might a frog use a tunnel beneath the road on a sunny day? Use two clues from the passage.	**The tunnel is shaded and damp, and frogs need moisture to keep their skin from drying out.**
4	A camera shows deer using a bridge. Does that prove the road is safer? Explain what else people could check.	**No. The camera shows that deer use the bridge, but people should also compare reports of animal-vehicle crashes from before and after it was built.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would put a planted bridge near a path between the woods and the meadow. Fences could guide animals onto it instead of onto the road. Animals need food, so they may travel from their nests to the meadow. Cameras could show whether animals use the bridge, and crash reports could help check if the road is safer.

Accept reasonable inferences supported by the passage. For Your Turn, look for a crossing plan, at least two passage details, an accurate connection to what animals need, and a way to test the plan.