Tracks After Dark

Find multiple details that support a claim or inference.

RI.7.1 "Cite multiple pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two facts about turtle behavior, circle two facts about human activity, and number at least two details that together support an inference about turtle safety.

The Beach Before Sunrise

1. On some Atlantic beaches, loggerhead sea turtles come ashore at night to lay eggs. A female digs a hole above the tide line, covers her eggs with sand, and returns to the water. The eggs remain hidden for roughly two months while they develop. At dawn, a volunteer may find wide flipper tracks leading up the beach and back down again. Those tracks can reveal a new nest even when no turtle is in sight. Without a marker, a person might walk across the buried eggs without knowing it.

2. When the eggs hatch, the young turtles usually emerge after dark. They move toward the brighter, open horizon over the sea. A lamp or glowing window behind the beach can pull them inland instead. Each extra minute on dry sand leaves them exposed to heat, dehydration, and predators. Light is not the only obstacle. A hatchling may struggle to climb out of a deep hole left by a beachgoer or get stuck in a tire rut. A beach can look empty and still hold hazards for tiny travelers.

3. Volunteer teams walk the shore at dawn, looking for fresh tracks and signs that hatchlings have emerged. They place small signs around known nests so visitors can give the buried eggs space. Near hatching time, teams also check whether the route to the water is clear. They ask nearby buildings to keep outdoor lights off or shielded and ask visitors to fill holes before leaving. Volunteers watch from a distance rather than carry healthy hatchlings to the surf, allowing the young turtles to make the trip themselves.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What two details show that a nest may be present even when no turtle is in sight?

2. Why could a glowing window behind the beach endanger hatchlings? Support your inference with two details.

3. What different problems do the teams' requests to buildings and visitors address? Give a passage detail for each problem.

4. Why might a team check the route to the water instead of only marking a nest? Use two details from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A hotel plans a nighttime movie beside a marked nest. In 4 to 5 sentences, recommend whether to move the event, using at least three distinct details from the passage as evidence.

ANSWER KEY

Tracks After Dark

GRADE 7 · RI.7.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two facts about turtle behavior, circle two facts about human activity, and number at least two details that together support an inference about turtle safety. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two details show that a nest may be present even when no turtle is in sight?	**The female covers her eggs with sand and leaves them hidden for roughly two months. Her flipper tracks can reveal the nest after she returns to the water.**
2	Why could a glowing window behind the beach endanger hatchlings? Support your inference with two details.	**Hatchlings move toward the brighter horizon over the sea, but a glowing window can pull them inland. Extra time on dry sand exposes them to dehydration, heat, and predators.**
3	What different problems do the teams' requests to buildings and visitors address? Give a passage detail for each problem.	**Keeping outdoor lights off or shielded reduces the chance that light will draw hatchlings inland. Filling holes removes obstacles that hatchlings may struggle to climb out of.**
4	Why might a team check the route to the water instead of only marking a nest? Use two details from the passage.	**A sign helps visitors avoid the buried eggs, but hatchlings later need a clear route to the sea. Deep holes and tire ruts can stop them on that trip.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The hotel should move the movie away from the marked nest. The sign shows that eggs are buried under the sand, even if no turtles are visible. Hatchlings usually emerge after dark, so the event could happen while they are moving toward the sea. Movie lights could draw them inland, and holes left by visitors could trap them.

Accept other reasonable inferences when students support them with the requested number of distinct, accurate passage details. For the marking job, the numbered details should work together to support an inference, not simply repeat the same fact.