

Roads for Wildlife

Trace a problem, its solution, and its results.

ELA.4.R.2 "Reading Informational Text"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the first two sentences of paragraph 1 to mark the habitat and collision problems. Circle wildlife crossing in the first sentence of paragraph 2. Label two benefits in paragraph 3 with 1 and 2.

Helping Animals Cross Roads

- ① Busy roads can split animal habitats into smaller pieces. When deer, turtles, or other animals try to cross, they may be hit by cars. Drivers can also be hurt in crashes. In places with many road crossings, scientists and transportation workers look for ways to make travel safer for both people and wildlife in the area.
- ② One solution is a wildlife crossing, a bridge or tunnel built for animals. Fences guide animals toward the crossing instead of the road. In Banff National Park in Canada, wildlife overpasses and underpasses connect habitats on both sides of a highway. Researchers have recorded animals such as bears and elk using these crossings.
- ③ Wildlife crossings can reduce collisions and help animals reach food, water, and mates. They also reconnect parts of a habitat that a road divided. Building a crossing costs money, so workers study where animals cross most often before choosing a site. By solving a road problem, these structures can protect drivers and support nearby animal populations.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1 What problem does the first paragraph describe?

2 What solution does the passage explain? Give two parts of the solution.

3 How does the example from Banff National Park support the idea that wildlife crossings help animals?

4 How is the passage organized, and how does that order help a reader understand the crossings?

3

YOUR TURN

————— Your own words

Write four sentences explaining the passage's problem-and-solution structure. State the problem, describe the two-part solution, give two benefits, and explain why this order helps readers understand the topic.

Explain the structure

Use details from the passage. Connect fences and crossings to the dangers they address, rather than listing facts without explaining their relationship.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the first two sentences of paragraph 1 to mark the habitat and collision problems. Circle wildlife crossing in the first sentence of paragraph 2. Label two benefits in paragraph 3 with 1 and 2. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem does the first paragraph describe?	Roads split habitats, and animals crossing roads can be hit by cars, which can also endanger drivers.
2	What solution does the passage explain? Give two parts of the solution.	It explains wildlife crossings. Bridges or tunnels give animals a way to cross, and fences guide animals toward the crossing instead of the road.
3	How does the example from Banff National Park support the idea that wildlife crossings help animals?	The structures connect habitats on both sides of the highway, and researchers have recorded bears and elk using them.
4	How is the passage organized, and how does that order help a reader understand the crossings?	It presents a problem, explains a solution, then gives benefits and a planning challenge. Knowing the road dangers first helps readers understand why crossings and fences are useful.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Roads can divide habitats and put animals and drivers in danger. Wildlife bridges or tunnels give animals a way across, while fences guide them away from traffic. These structures can reduce collisions and reconnect habitats. Presenting the problem first helps readers understand why both the crossings and the fences are needed.

Accept equivalent explanations of problem-and-solution structure that connect the stated problem, two-part solution, and benefits. The first two sentences identify habitat division and collision danger; paragraph 3 offers reduced collisions, access to resources or mates, and reconnected habitats. Source for the Banff example: Parks Canada, Wildlife crossing structures and research; parks.canada.ca/pn-np/ab/banff/nature/conservation/transport/tch-rtc/passages-crossings. The passage is an educational summary, not a quotation.