Tracks in the Sand

Use text evidence to explain a problem and weigh a response.

6.W.9 "Draw relevant evidence from literary or informational texts to support written analysis, reflection, and research, applying one or more grade 6 standards for Reading Literature or Reading Informational texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details about a danger hatchlings face, then circle two details about how people can reduce that danger. Use your marks to choose evidence for your answers.

A Dark Route to the Sea

1 On a summer night, a loggerhead sea turtle hatches beneath the sand and crawls toward the water. On a dark beach, the open horizon over the ocean is often brighter than the dunes behind it. This contrast helps hatchlings find the sea. But a bright parking lot can pull them inland instead. There, they may lose energy, become easier prey, or reach a road. A single light does not affect every hatchling in the same way, but artificial light near nesting beaches can make the trip more dangerous.

2 People who live near nesting beaches face a problem: they need light to walk safely, but hatchlings need a dark route to the sea. Beach communities can shield outdoor lamps so the bulbs are not visible from the sand. They can also aim lights downward and close curtains after sunset. These changes do not mean turning off every light. They reduce the amount of light reaching the beach while leaving light where people need it. A lamp that seems dim from a porch may still shine clearly from the sand.

3 Volunteers sometimes check beaches after sunrise for tracks. Tiny marks leading from a nest toward the surf suggest that hatchlings traveled in the right direction. Tracks heading toward buildings can point to a lighting problem, although wind and footsteps may erase clues. Volunteers report possible problems to local wildlife staff instead of moving nests or hatchlings on their own. The tracks cannot show whether every turtle survived. Still, they can help people spot places where better lighting might make a dangerous journey safer for the next group of hatchlings.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why might a hatchling crawl toward a parking lot instead of the sea? Use a detail from the passage to support your answer.

2. How can shielding outdoor lamps meet the needs of both people and hatchlings? Support your answer with evidence from the passage.

3. A volunteer finds tracks heading toward buildings. What might the tracks suggest, and why are they not certain proof of what happened to every hatchling?

4. What is a central idea of the passage? Support it with one detail about the danger and one detail about a possible response.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A town is choosing lamps for a new walking path beside a nesting beach. In four or five sentences, recommend a lighting rule and support it with details from two different paragraphs. Include one limit on what tracks can prove.

ANSWER KEY

Tracks in the Sand

GRADE 6 · 6.W.9

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details about a danger hatchlings face, then circle two details about how people can reduce that danger. Use your marks to choose evidence for your answers. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why might a hatchling crawl toward a parking lot instead of the sea? Use a detail from the passage to support your answer.	**A bright parking lot can pull a hatchling inland because hatchlings use the brighter horizon over the ocean to help find the sea.**
2	How can shielding outdoor lamps meet the needs of both people and hatchlings? Support your answer with evidence from the passage.	**Shielding keeps bulbs from being visible from the sand, reducing light that may draw hatchlings inland. It leaves light where people need it to walk.**
3	A volunteer finds tracks heading toward buildings. What might the tracks suggest, and why are they not certain proof of what happened to every hatchling?	**The tracks may suggest a lighting problem. Wind or footsteps can erase tracks, and tracks cannot show whether every turtle survived.**
4	What is a central idea of the passage? Support it with one detail about the danger and one detail about a possible response.	**People can reduce the danger that artificial light poses to hatchlings. A bright parking lot can pull hatchlings inland, while shielded lamps keep bulbs from being visible from the sand.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The town should use shielded lamps aimed downward along the path. A bright parking lot can pull hatchlings inland, where they may reach a road. Shielding lamps can keep their bulbs from being visible from the sand while leaving light where people need it. Volunteers could watch for tracks heading toward buildings, but tracks cannot show whether every hatchling survived.

Accept other supported central ideas and lighting rules. Responses should connect specific passage details to a claim, and the Part 3 response should use details from at least two paragraphs without treating tracks as proof of every hatchling's fate.