

Moonlit Turtle Trek

Use sensory details to build meaning as you read.

5.6.D "create mental images to deepen understanding;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that help you see, feel, or sense movement in your mind. Number the three details that make the turtle's journey easiest to picture, then use those images to understand what happens.

A Hatchling's First Journey

- ① At dusk, a female green sea turtle climbs from the ocean onto a sandy beach. Using her wide flippers, she pulls herself above the high tide line. She digs a round nest with her back flippers, lays her eggs, and covers them with sand. Then she returns to the dark water, leaving the nest hidden beneath the beach.
- ② About two months later, tiny hatchlings break through their eggs and push upward together. Sand grains slide over their shells as they crawl through the nest. Most hatchlings leave at night, when the beach is cooler and darker. They follow the brightest open horizon, which is usually moonlight or starlight reflecting on the sea. Artificial lights near shore can confuse them and lead them away from water.
- ③ A hatchling is only a few inches long, yet its trip to the waves is dangerous. Ghost crabs may wait near the sand, and birds may spot the moving turtles when morning comes. When a hatchling reaches the surf, a wave may lift it, spin it, and carry it into the ocean. The tiny turtle begins an ocean journey that may last many years. Only some hatchlings will survive to become adults.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Reread paragraph 1. What do you picture the turtle doing to hide her nest? Use two details from the paragraph.

2 What picture do the words "Sand grains slide over their shells" help you make?

3 Imagine a hatchling looking toward the ocean at night. Which light should it follow, and why could a shore light cause trouble?

4 Make a mental movie of the hatchling reaching the surf. What happens next, and what does this show about its trip?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one paragraph from the passage and create a three-sentence mental movie of the scene. Use at least three details from the paragraph and one sensory word, then explain in your final sentence what your image helps you understand.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that help you see, feel, or sense movement in your mind. Number the three details that make the turtle's journey easiest to picture, then use those images to understand what happens. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Reread paragraph 1. What do you picture the turtle doing to hide her nest? Use two details from the paragraph.	She digs a round nest with her back flippers and covers the eggs with sand.
2	What picture do the words "Sand grains slide over their shells" help you make?	Tiny hatchlings are crawling upward through loose sand, with grains falling or sliding across their shells.
3	Imagine a hatchling looking toward the ocean at night. Which light should it follow, and why could a shore light cause trouble?	It should follow moonlight or starlight reflecting on the sea. A shore light can confuse it and lead it away from the water.
4	Make a mental movie of the hatchling reaching the surf. What happens next, and what does this show about its trip?	A wave may lift, spin, and carry the hatchling into the ocean. This shows that its trip is difficult and dangerous.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I picture small hatchlings pushing through cool, gritty sand while grains slide over their backs. Under a dark sky, they crawl toward a bright strip of moonlight on the ocean, but a shore lamp glows in the wrong direction. This image helps me understand why artificial lights can make their dangerous trip even harder.

Accept different mental images when they are supported by details in the passage. For the open task, look for three sentences, at least three accurate passage details, a sensory word, and an explanation of how the image deepens understanding.