Night Trip Clues

Identify what an informational author wants to answer and explain.

3.RI.2.C "Identify the author's purpose for writing, including what the author wants to answer, explain, or describe."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the question the author wants to answer. Underline three details that help answer it, then draw a box around the problem people can cause.

A Night Trip

1 On a warm summer night, a female sea turtle digs a nest in sand and lays her eggs. Weeks later, tiny hatchlings break out of the shells. They usually leave the nest at night, when the beach is cooler and some predators are harder to see. But how can hatchlings find the ocean when they have never been there before?

2 Sea turtles do not follow a parent. Instead, hatchlings move toward the brightest, lowest place they can see. On a natural beach, the open sky over the water is often brighter than the land behind them. This light guides the hatchlings toward the waves. As they crawl, the slope of the beach and the sound of moving water can also help.

3 Bright lights near beaches can cause trouble. Hotel lights, streetlights, and porch lights may look brighter than the ocean sky. Confused hatchlings can crawl toward roads or buildings instead of the water. People can help by turning off unneeded lights, closing curtains, and keeping beaches dark during hatching season. Dark beaches give young turtles a safer start.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the author's main purpose for writing this passage?

2. What question does the author want to answer?

3. Which two details help explain how hatchlings reach the ocean?

4. Why does the author describe bright lights near beaches?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose an animal behavior you know about. Write a question as a title and exactly three sentences for a mini-information text that answers the question. Include at least two facts that explain or describe the behavior.

ANSWER KEY

Night Trip Clues

GRADE 3 · 3.RI.2.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the question the author wants to answer. Underline three details that help answer it, then draw a box around the problem people can cause. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the author's main purpose for writing this passage?	**To answer and explain how sea turtle hatchlings find the ocean after leaving their nest.**
2	What question does the author want to answer?	**How can hatchlings find the ocean when they have never been there before?**
3	Which two details help explain how hatchlings reach the ocean?	**They move toward the bright, low sky over the water, and the beach slope and sound of moving water can help guide them.**
4	Why does the author describe bright lights near beaches?	**To explain that artificial lights can confuse hatchlings and lead them away from the ocean.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

How Do Monarch Butterflies Travel South? Each fall, many monarchs use the sun and an internal clock to guide their flight. They travel south to mountain forests in central Mexico. The forests offer a safer winter place than the freezing areas farther north.

Accept answers that state the author wants to answer or explain how hatchlings locate the ocean and that use supporting details from the passage. For Part 3, accept a question title and exactly three factual sentences that clearly answer, explain, or describe the chosen behavior.