Lights and Hatchlings

Use related words to unlock precise meanings in context.

6.RV.1.D "Use the relationship between particular words, including synonyms and antonyms to better understand each word."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline word pairs that have similar meanings, and circle word pairs that have opposite meanings. These relationships help you figure out what each word means.

A Brighter Beach Problem

1 On a moonlit beach in Costa Rica, sea turtle hatchlings begin a risky trip from their nests to the ocean. The newborn turtles are tiny, or very small, and their shells are fragile, meaning easily broken. They move quickly across the sand because crabs and birds may spot them. The beach looks dim at night, but lights from nearby buildings can make the shore bright. Those bright lights may pull hatchlings away from the darker sea.

2 Wildlife workers can reduce this problem by asking residents to turn off unnecessary lamps during nesting season. A shield over a lamp sends light downward instead of outward, so less light reaches the beach. These changes help keep the shore dark and can guide hatchlings toward the water. Workers also try to keep the area quiet, or free from loud noise. A calm beach gives the small animals a safer path than a noisy, crowded beach.

3 Not every hatchling reaches the ocean. When a hatchling follows artificial light inland, it may become confused, or unsure about where to go. It can waste energy traveling over dry sand instead of swimming. Researchers study these journeys by watching from a distance so they do not disturb the animals. Their records show that a faint, weak glow can affect hatchlings, while a strong glow is even more likely to mislead them. Protecting dark beaches helps more turtles begin life in the sea.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, which words help you understand fragile, and what does fragile mean?

2. How are dim and bright related in paragraph 1?

3. What phrase in paragraph 2 gives a meaning for quiet?

4. In paragraph 3, faint is paired with weak. What does this pairing tell you about the meaning of faint?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about a different animal. In one sentence, use a synonym pair to clarify a word. In the other sentence, use antonyms to show a contrast. Underline the synonym pair and circle the antonym pair.

ANSWER KEY

Lights and Hatchlings

GRADE 6 · 6.RV.1.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline word pairs that have similar meanings, and circle word pairs that have opposite meanings. These relationships help you figure out what each word means. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, which words help you understand fragile, and what does fragile mean?	**The words "easily broken" help explain it. Fragile means easily broken.**
2	How are dim and bright related in paragraph 1?	**They are antonyms. Dim means having little light, while bright means having much light.**
3	What phrase in paragraph 2 gives a meaning for quiet?	**"Free from loud noise."**
4	In paragraph 3, faint is paired with weak. What does this pairing tell you about the meaning of faint?	**Faint means weak or not strong.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The beaver was diligent, or hardworking, as it repaired its dam. The pond was (shallow) near the bank but (deep) in the middle.

Accept equivalent explanations of the word relationships in the passage. For Part 3, accept any two accurate sentences about an animal that include a clear synonym pair and a clear antonym pair, with the pairs marked.