Sea Turtles

Grade 3
Reading comprehension · Nonfiction

Name: _____ Date: _____

Read the passage carefully. You may read it more than once. Then answer the questions.

Sea turtles have lived in the ocean for millions of years. They were swimming in the sea when dinosaurs walked on land! Today, there are seven kinds of sea turtles. The biggest, the leatherback, can weigh more than one thousand pounds.

Unlike land turtles, they cannot pull their heads into their shells. Instead, they have strong flippers that help them swim long distances. Some sea turtles travel thousands of miles across the ocean to find food. They eat jellyfish, sea grass, crabs, and other ocean foods, depending on the kind of turtle.

Female sea turtles return to land to lay their eggs. Many return to the same beach where they hatched years before. At night, a mother turtle digs a hole in the sand with her back flippers and lays about one hundred eggs. Then she covers them and returns to the sea. About two months later, the baby turtles hatch and crawl toward the water. They find their way by following the light of the sky over the ocean.

Today, many sea turtles are in danger. Plastic in the ocean, bright lights on beaches, and fishing nets can harm them. Turtles sometimes mistake floating plastic bags for jellyfish and eat them. Bright lights can confuse baby turtles so they crawl the wrong way. People can help by keeping beaches clean and turning off lights near nests.

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Sea Turtles

Grade 3
Questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Circle the best answer. Then complete the writing at the end.

1. [Right There] How are sea turtles different from land turtles?
a) They have no shells.
b) They cannot pull their heads into their shells.
c) They can fly.

2. [Right There] Where do sea turtles lay their eggs?
a) in holes in the sand
b) in the water
c) in trees

3. [Think and Search] What is one way people can help sea turtles?
a) Use more fishing nets.
b) Put up more bright lights.
c) Keep beaches clean.

4. [Main Idea] What is this text mostly about?
a) the lives of sea turtles and how to protect them
b) how to build a sandcastle
c) different kinds of fish

5. [Cause and Effect] Why are bright lights on beaches dangerous for baby turtles?
a) They can make babies crawl the wrong way.
b) They make the sand too hot.
c) They wake up the mother turtle.

6. [Right There] What do sea turtles sometimes mistake plastic bags for?
a) crabs
b) jellyfish
c) sea grass

Write About It. What was the most important idea in “Sea Turtles”? Use two details from the text.

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Sea Turtles — Answer Key

Grade 3
Reading comprehension

1. How are sea turtles different from land turtles?

b) They cannot pull their heads into their shells.

2. Where do sea turtles lay their eggs?

a) in holes in the sand

3. What is one way people can help sea turtles?

c) Keep beaches clean.

4. What is this text mostly about?

a) the lives of sea turtles and how to protect them

5. Why are bright lights on beaches dangerous for baby turtles?

a) They can make babies crawl the wrong way.

6. What do sea turtles sometimes mistake plastic bags for?

b) jellyfish

Write About It: Answers will vary. Look for two accurate details from the text.

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