

5th Grade Reading: The Journey of Sea Turtles (Nonfiction) - Answer Key

5th Grade - nonfiction comprehension, inference, and author's purpose | 22 minutes

Read the passage:

Few animals travel as far as the sea turtle. A female sea turtle may swim thousands of miles across the ocean to return to the very same beach where she was born. There, at night, she crawls onto the sand, digs a deep nest, and lays around one hundred eggs. Then she returns to the sea, leaving the eggs behind. About two months later, tiny hatchlings dig their way out and scramble toward the bright horizon over the water. This dash is dangerous - crabs, birds, and other animals wait to eat them, and only a few survive to adulthood. Today sea turtles face new dangers from people, too. Plastic trash in the ocean can be mistaken for food, and lights from buildings near the beach can confuse hatchlings, sending them the wrong way. Many people now work to protect nesting beaches and keep the ocean clean, hoping these ancient travelers will continue their journey for generations to come.

Read the passage. Then answer each question in a complete sentence, using evidence from the text.

1. Where does a female sea turtle lay her eggs?

Answer: On the same beach where she was born.

2. About how many eggs does she lay?

Answer: Around one hundred.

3. Why is the hatchlings' dash to the sea dangerous?

Answer: Predators like crabs and birds wait to eat them, and only a few survive.

4. Name one danger to sea turtles caused by people.

Answer: Plastic trash mistaken for food, or lights that confuse hatchlings.

5. What is the main idea of the passage?

Answer: Sea turtles make an amazing, risky journey and now need protection from human dangers. (Sample answer.)

Challenge

6. What do you think is the author's purpose? Use the text.

Answer: To inform readers about sea turtles and to raise concern so people will protect them - shown by the ending about keeping the ocean clean. (Sample answer.)