



Informational Reading Comprehension

Where Are the Stars?

Continue reading.

- 6 That said, light pollution can be greatly reduced with a few relatively simple actions. The first priority is to stop wasting light. Outdoor artificial lights can be shielded, or covered, so that the light shines down to the ground only where it's needed. People can be more mindful about using lights only when and where they are necessary, and turning lights off when they're not in use. Additionally, people can select light bulbs with the smallest effective amount of brightness. Most bright white lights, including LEDs, emit a large amount of shorter wavelength blue light, which brightens the sky more than any other color of light. Choosing light bulbs with warm-colored, longer wavelength light in the yellow or orange light spectrum can help prevent harmful light pollution.
- 7 An Arizona-based organization called the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) wants to help everyone make these changes. IDA's mission is to eliminate light pollution and thereby preserve and restore our dark night skies. The IDA works with communities and governments in the United States and around

Simple Actions to Reduce Light Pollution

1. Shield or cover outdoor lights to direct light to the ground.
2. Use light only when and where it's needed.
3. Use energy-efficient bulbs with the smallest effective brightness.
4. Turn off lights when not in use, or use a timer.
5. Opt for warm-colored lights over bright white lights.

the world to change how they light the night. The IDA certifies official dark-sky places and works to keep those skies dark.

- 8 The IDA has certified over 130 International Dark-Sky Places (IDSPs), and more are going through the multi-year process to become certified. These efforts not only save energy but also satisfy people's craving to gaze in wonder at the stars, planets, and galaxies. By making just a few small changes, these communities will help bring the stars back to their night skies.

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Answer the following questions about "Where Are the Stars?" **Sample answers**

1. What is the central idea of the text?
 - A. Blue light from some LEDs can be harmful.
 - B. The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) is working to restore dark night skies.
 - C. Excessive artificial light is causing our view of the night sky to disappear.**
 - D. Too much artificial light disrupts animal migrations and reproduction.
2. According to paragraph 1, what is skyglow?

Skyglow is an artificial brightening of the sky that hides the stars from view.

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Answer the following questions about “Where Are the Stars?” **Sample answers**

3. How does information in paragraph 2 support the main idea of the text?

- A. It provides historical context for the importance of dark skies.
- B. It gives the history of how dark skies have slowly disappeared.
- C. It answers the question of how to bring darkness back to night skies.
- D. It shows how important dark skies are to the natural environment.

4. What does this sentence from paragraph 3 show the reader?

“Yet it was only about a century ago that nearly everyone alive could...see countless stars filling the dark night sky.”

- A. It will be easy to turn the clock back and restore dark night skies.
- B. People no longer value being able to see the stars at night.
- C. Dark night skies are an unrecoverable loss for humanity.
- D. The change to the night skies has happened recently and rapidly.

5. What does it mean in paragraph 4 that “light pollution is the culprit”?

It means that light pollution is the cause of disappearing dark skies.

6. What shift, if any, does the author make between paragraph 5 and paragraph 6?

- A. The author transitions from describing a problem’s causes to describing its effects.
- B. The author transitions from describing a problem to outlining a solution.
- C. The author transitions from describing differences to describing similarities.
- D. The author continues to give further evidence of the severity of a problem.

7. How does the information in paragraph 7 relate to the rest of the text?

Paragraph 7 introduces the International Dark-Sky Association, which is working to solve the light pollution problem described in the rest of the text.

8. In your own words, summarize the actions that can be taken to restore dark night skies.

To avoid wasting light, people can shield outdoor lights so they shine only where needed. People can also turn off lights when they're not needed. Additionally, people can use the lowest brightness level needed and use bulbs that emit yellow and orange light rather than blue light to reduce light pollution.

