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Level 4 – 5th February 2024

Artificial light is dangerous for insects, say scientists

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240205-light-attracts-insects-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240205-light-attracts-insects-4.html>

In prehistoric times, people asked why winged insects were attracted by fire. A saying describes this attraction as being, "like a moth to a flame". A recent study suggests insects do not head towards light because they like it. They are drawn to light because it guides their flight. Artificial light disorients nocturnal bugs like moths, often to fatal ends. The study said all our beliefs about why insects fly toward light "might have been wrong".

The scientists looked at insects flying around artificial lights in a rainforest. Insects usually use the moon to fly in straight lines. However, the artificial lights confused the bugs. They continuously flew around the lights in an erratic manner. Many insects fly to their deaths after being attracted by bug zappers. Artificial light also damages insects' abilities to find a mate, forage for food, and defend itself against predators.

Sources: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/news/251217/flying-insects-become-disorientated-trapped-artificial/>
<https://gizmodo.com/why-insects-bugs-fly-around-artificial-lights-1851216660>
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-024-44785-3>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240205-light-attracts-insects-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. In prehistoric | a. it guides their flight |
| 2. why winged insects were | b. to a flame |
| 3. like a moth | c. about why |
| 4. insects do not head | d. ends |
| 5. They are drawn to light because | e. attracted by fire |
| 6. Artificial light disorients nocturnal | f. towards light |
| 7. often to fatal | g. bugs |
| 8. all our beliefs | h. times |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. use the moon to fly in | a. find a mate |
| 2. the artificial lights | b. around the lights |
| 3. They continuously flew | c. predators |
| 4. in an erratic | d. straight lines |
| 5. being attracted | e. for food |
| 6. insects' abilities to | f. by bug zappers |
| 7. forage | g. confused the bugs |
| 8. defend itself against | h. manner |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240205-light-attracts-insects-4.html>

In prehistoric times, people asked (1) _____ were attracted by fire. A saying describes this (2) _____, "like a moth to a flame". A recent study suggests insects do (3) _____ light because they like it. They are drawn to light because it (4) _____. Artificial light disorients nocturnal bugs like moths, often (5) _____. The study said all our beliefs about why insects fly toward light "might (6) _____".

The scientists looked at insects flying around artificial lights in a rainforest. Insects usually use the moon to fly (7) _____. However, the artificial lights (8) _____. They continuously flew around the lights in (9) _____. Many insects fly to their deaths after being attracted (10) _____. Artificial light also damages insects' abilities to (11) _____, forage for food, and defend (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240205-light-attracts-insects-4.html>

In prehistoric times, people asked why winged insects were attracted by fire. As a saying describes this attraction as being, "like a moth to a flame". A recent study suggests insects do not head towards light because they like it. They are drawn to light because it guides their flight. Artificial light disorients nocturnal bugs like moths, often to fatal ends. The study said all our beliefs about why insects fly toward light "might have been wrong". The scientists looked at insects flying around artificial lights in a rain forest. Insects usually use the moon to fly in straight lines. However, the artificial light confused the bugs. They continuously flew around the lights in an erratic manner. Many insects fly to their deaths after being attracted by bug zappers. Artificial light also damages insects' abilities to find a mate, forage for food, and defend itself against predators.

NOCTURNAL INSECTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240205-light-attracts-insects-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about nocturnal insects in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

| | STUDENT 1 _____ | STUDENT 2 _____ | STUDENT 3 _____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Q.1. | | | |
| Q.2. | | | |
| Q.3. | | | |
| Q.4. | | | |
| Q.5. | | | |

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240205-light-attracts-insects-4.html>

Write about **nocturnal insects** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner’s paper.
