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Level 5 – 5th February 2024

Artificial light is dangerous for insects, say scientists

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240205-light-attracts-insects-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240205-light-attracts-insects-5.html>

In prehistoric times, our ancestors questioned why winged insects were attracted by fire. An old saying describes this attraction as being, "like a moth to a flame". A recent study dispels the notion that insects head towards light because they like it. Biologists have reported that insects are drawn to light because it guides them when flying. The scientists said artificial light disorients nocturnal bugs like moths, often to fatal ends. The co-author of the study said all our beliefs about why insects fly toward light "might have been wrong".

The scientists did research in a Costa Rican rainforest. They observed insects flying around artificial lights. Insects usually use the moon to fly in straight lines. However, around the artificial lights, the bugs became confused and flew in arcs. An entomologist said: "Natural sky light...helps maintain proper flight....Artificial sources...can produce continuous steering around the light and trap an insect." This explains why so many insects fly to their death into bug zappers. Artificial light 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-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. In prehistoric | a. to a flame |
| 2. winged | b. about why |
| 3. An old | c. because it guides them |
| 4. like a moth | d. saying |
| 5. A recent study dispels | e. times |
| 6. insects are drawn to light | f. like moths |
| 7. nocturnal bugs | g. insects |
| 8. all our beliefs | h. the notion |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. They observed insects flying | a. bug zappers |
| 2. use the moon to fly in | b. insect |
| 3. the bugs became | c. predators |
| 4. trap an | d. confused |
| 5. fly to their death into | e. around artificial lights |
| 6. find a | f. for food |
| 7. forage | g. straight lines |
| 8. defend itself against | h. mate |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240205-light-attracts-insects-5.html>

In prehistoric times, (1) _____ why winged insects were attracted by fire. An old saying (2) _____ as being, "like a moth to a flame". A recent study dispels the notion that insects (3) _____ because they like it. Biologists have reported that insects are drawn to light because it guides them when flying. The scientists said artificial light (4) _____ like moths, often (5) _____. The co-author of the study said (6) _____ about why insects fly toward light "might have been wrong".

The scientists did research in a Costa Rican rainforest. They observed insects flying (7) _____. Insects usually use the moon to fly (8) _____. However, around the artificial lights, the bugs became confused and (9) _____. An entomologist said: "Natural sky light...helps maintain proper flight....Artificial sources...can produce continuous steering around the (10) _____ an insect." This explains why so many insects fly to their death (11) _____. Artificial light damages insects' abilities to find a mate, forage for food, and defend (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240205-light-attracts-insects-5.html>

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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) _____

