Wild About Wildlife

Taking a closer look at the consequences of artificial lighting and its affects on wildlife.

Ages 6-12 years old

Images by U.S. Department of Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service
What is your favorite thing about the night sky?
Bird Watch

During bird migration the large, brightly lit buildings in cities can cause birds to become confused and disoriented. This often causes them to fly into buildings and other dangerous situations! Color the buildings below with their lights off so Wendy can fly through the city without harm.

1 = gray
2 = black
3 = dark blue
4 = yellow

Help Save Our Night Skies!!!
Wild about Wildlife

If you could have any animal for a pet, what would it be? Where does this animal live? How might it be affected by light pollution?

____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________

List 5 other animals that are influenced by light pollution:

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

Why do you think it is important we help keep these animals healthy?

____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________

What can you do to help keep all animals safe and healthy?

____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________

Can you help my friends and me?

____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________

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Think Logically

What has been shown through scientific studies is that wildlife - including insects, amphibians, birds, fish, reptiles, and mammals - need both daylight and darkness to be healthy. Light pollution causes many problems for wildlife because it creates too much artificial light during the night hours. This can result in many problems. All wildlife may experience confusion, weakened survival skills, problems reproducing and a loss of appetite or difficulty finding food. Insects and birds may also encounter fixation. Fixation is the unhealthy preoccupation that prevents the bird or insect from focusing on anything else. Have you ever seen a moth flying around a street light in circles? The moth is fixated on the light. It is important for us learn more about light pollution, and do our part to help make a healthier environment for our wildlife!

Look at the logic chart below. Under each animal put a check mark next to the negative things they experience due to light pollution.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amphibians</th>
<th>Reptiles</th>
<th>Mammals</th>
<th>Birds</th>
<th>Fish</th>
<th>Insects</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixation</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Confusion or disorientation: ✓
- Loss of appetite or difficulty finding food
- Problems reproducing
- Weakened survival skills

One is already done for you!
Unscramble the Scrambles

Look at the scrambled words below. Unscramble them and write the correct word on the line.

tcnrunalo  __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __
pmbiaiansh  __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __
logbla mwaignr  __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __
gilh lputnoio  __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __
ixafitno  __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __
evonrinnetm  __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __
rgbhti  glihst  __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __   __

Now that you have unscrambled all the words, use the boxed letters in your answers above to answer the riddle below. Remember to place them in the same order as above.

What do animals need in order to stay healthy?

__   __   T   U   R   __   __   G   H   __
A   __   N   __   __   __   __   T

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Light Pollution and Wildlife

2. Turning off your lights will help save these animals because fewer greenhouse gases will be emitted. (2 words)

5. _______ become disoriented by bright coastal lights after hatching. (2 words)

7. _______ animals sleep during the day and are awake during night hours.

9. _______ is an increase in the average overall temperature of the Earth’s atmosphere. It is melting the polar ice caps and making it difficult for polar bears to hunt. (2 words)

10. Inefficient, intrusive lighting is the major cause of ___________. (2 words)

1. A very harsh, bright light causes ________, making it difficult to see.

3. Bright lights, much like ________ disrupt the natural instincts of moths and other insects because they become fixated. (2 words)

4. 32 million birds die every year from flying into brightly lit ___________.

6. _________ is when animals are unable to focus on their survival instincts. Usually caused by a bright intrusive light.

8. _________ are examples of a nocturnal creatures.
Connect the Dots!

It might sound strange, but the energy you use to power things like lights and TVs usually comes from burning fuels such as coal and oil. This is making the Earth's climate heat up. The rise in temperature is causing the polar ice caps to melt and destroying the ice that polar bears hunt from. There are only around 22,000 polar bears left in the world, but this number could fall dramatically if the Arctic continues to warm at twice the rate as the rest of the world. The less energy you use, from turning off unnecessary lights, the less your climate will heat up and the more ice there will be for the polar bears!
Light at Night

Gather some magazines and brochures. Look through and pick out some pictures that show animals who are affected by light pollution.

**Animals affected by light pollution**

Research the affects that light pollution has on these animals and what can we do to help? Write your answers in the box provided below.
Color Me Crazy!!

Nocturnal animals and creatures are greatly affected by light pollution. Most become disoriented and confused by the unnatural light. This causes them to wander into traffic and roadways, fly or walk into dangerous situations, or even become easy prey for other animals.
Wildlife Word Search

Amphibian  Environment  Habitat
Insect     Vertebrate   Bad light
Mammal     Fish         Migrate
Reptile    Light        Organism
Cold blooded  Good light  Light pollution
Bird       Glare         Wildlife

How many can you find?
Many animals are affected by light pollution. Baby sea turtles, after hatching, often have difficulty finding their way to the ocean due to artificial lighting. They can wander into dangerous situations and are more easily preyed upon. Help this sea turtle find its way home!