

Wild About Wildlife

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



Images by U.S. Department of Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service

Ages 6-12 years old



A large white cloud shape with horizontal lines inside, set against a black background with white stars. The cloud is composed of several overlapping rounded shapes. The lines are horizontal and spaced evenly, providing a writing area for the user's response.

What is your favorite
thing about
the night sky?



Wendy



3

Bird Watch

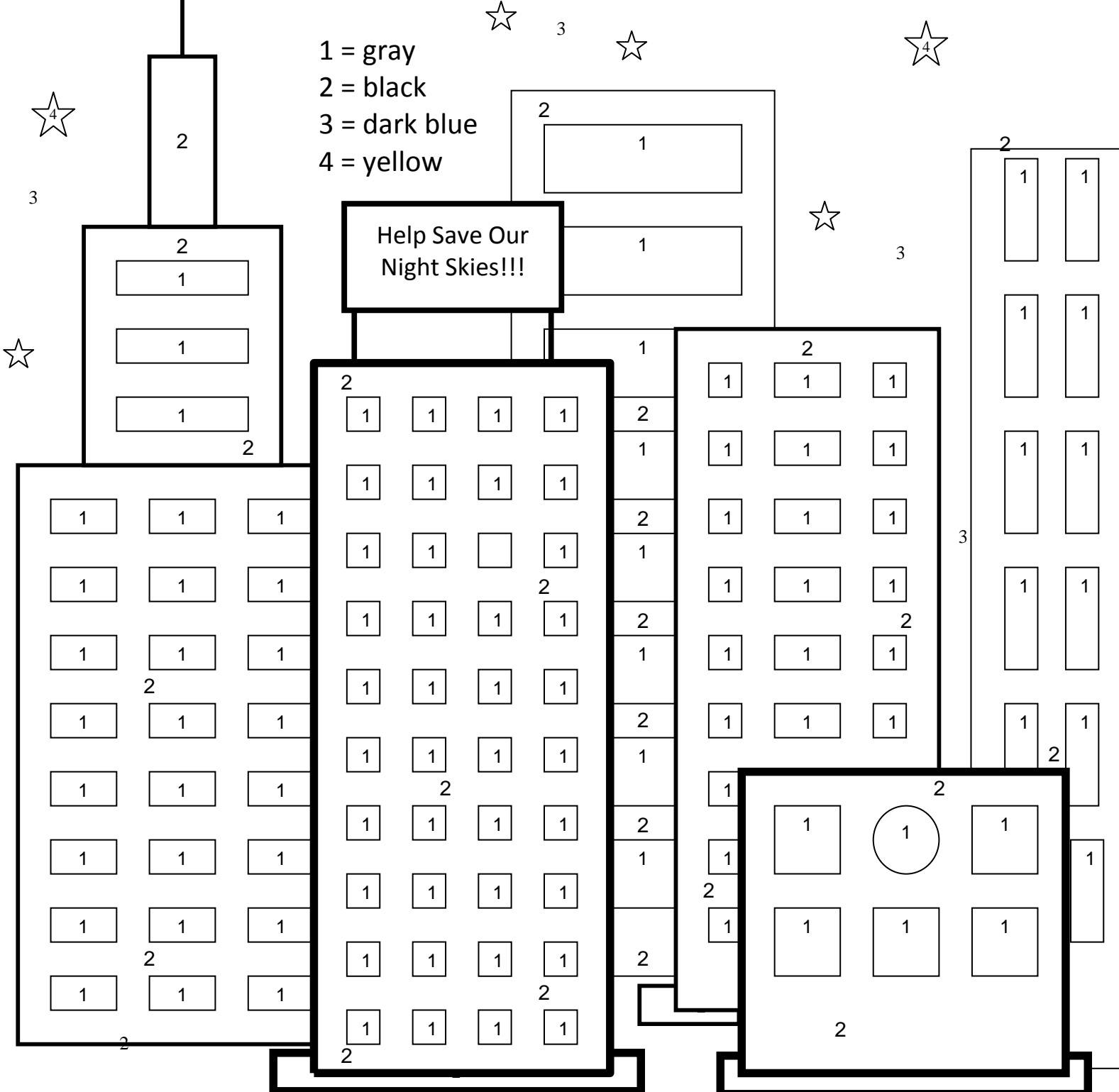


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During bird migration the large, brightly lit buildings in cities can cause birds to become confused and disoriented. This often causes them to fly into buildings and other dangerous situations!

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



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?









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 to learn more about light pollution, and do our part to help make a healthier environment for our wildlife!

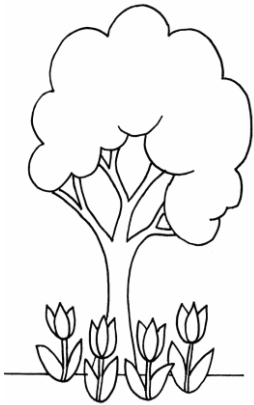
Look at the logic chart below. Under each animal put a check mark next to the things they experience due to light pollution.

One is already done for you!

	Amphibians 	Reptiles 	Mammals 	Birds 	Fish 	Insects 
Fixation						
Confusion or disorientation	✓					
Loss of appetite or difficulty finding food						
Problems reproducing						
Weakened survival skills						

Unscramble the Scrambles

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



tcnrunnalo _____

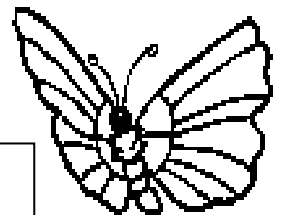
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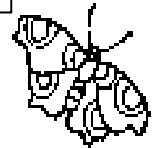


ixafitno _____



evonrinnetm _____

rgbhti glihst _____

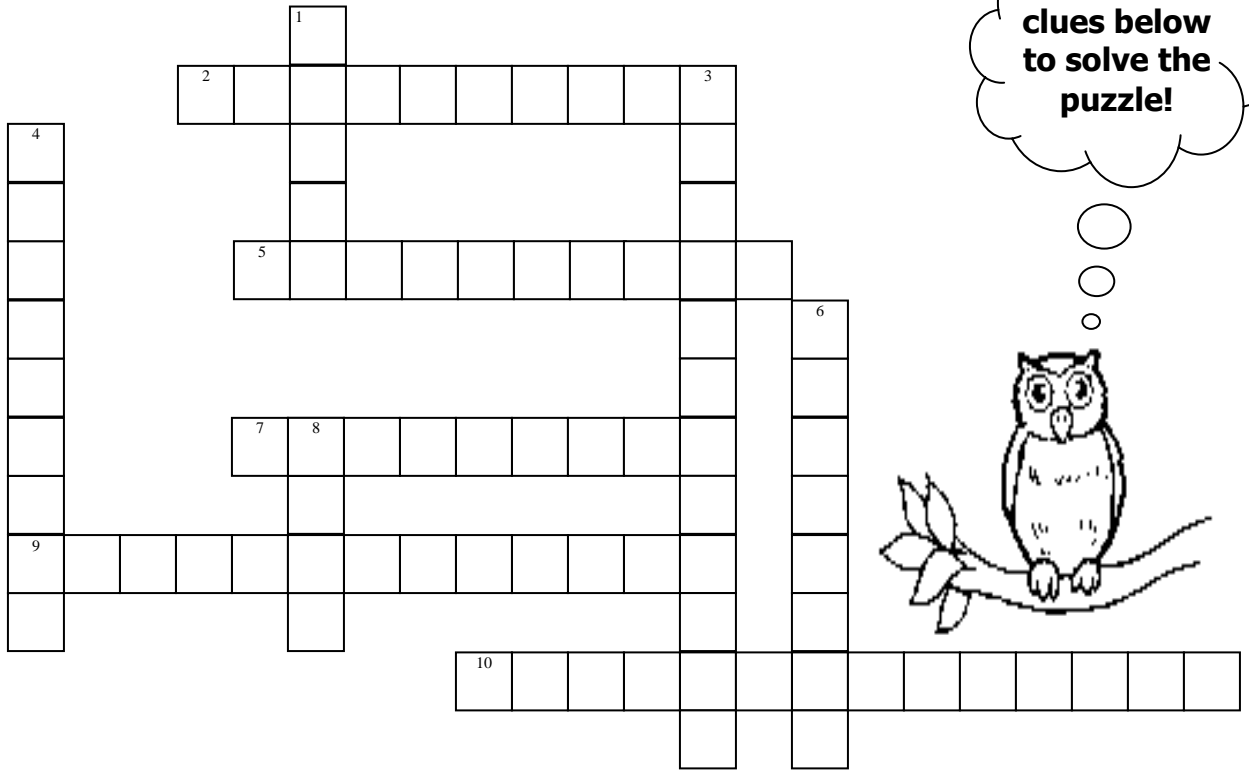
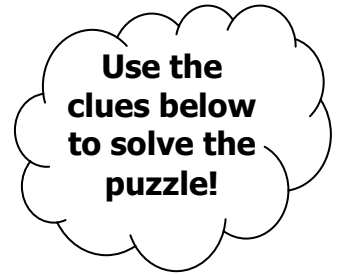
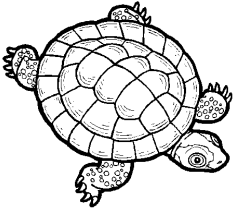


Now that you have unscrambled all the words, use the boxed letters in your answers above to answer the riddle below. Remember to place them in the same order as above.

What do animals need in order to stay healthy?

___ T U R ___ ___ G H ___
 A N T

Light Pollution and Wildlife



Across

Down

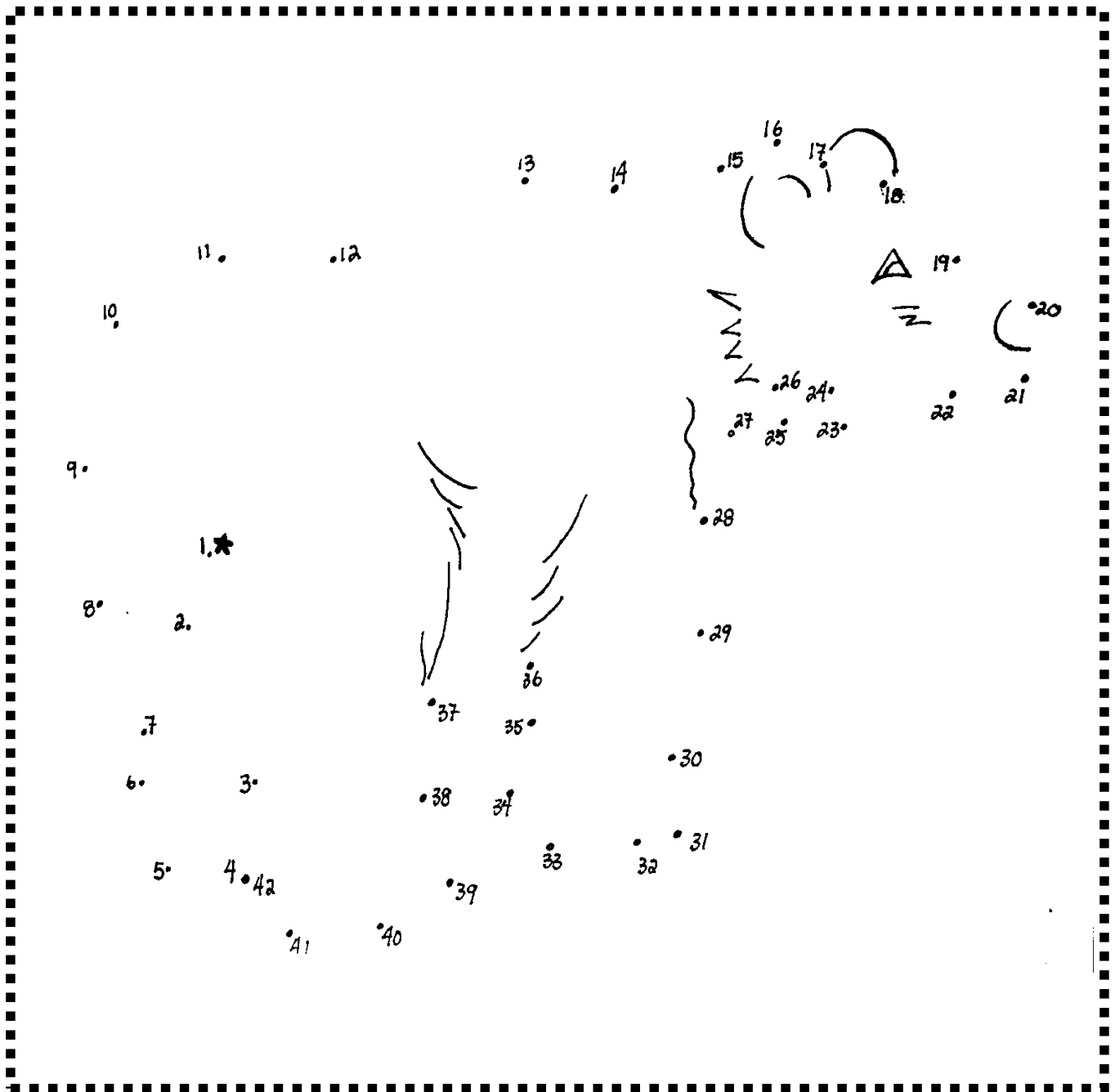
- 2. Turning off your lights will help save these animals because fewer greenhouse gases will be emitted. (2 words)
- 5. _____ become disoriented by bright coastal lights after hatching. (2 words)
- 7. _____ animals sleep during the day and are awake during night hours.
- 9. _____ is an increase in the 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.

Answers: (across) 2. Polar Bears, 5. Seal Turtles 7. Nocturnal 9. Global Warming 10. Light Pollution (down) 1. Glare 3. Street Lights 4. Buildings 6. Fixation 8. Owls

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!

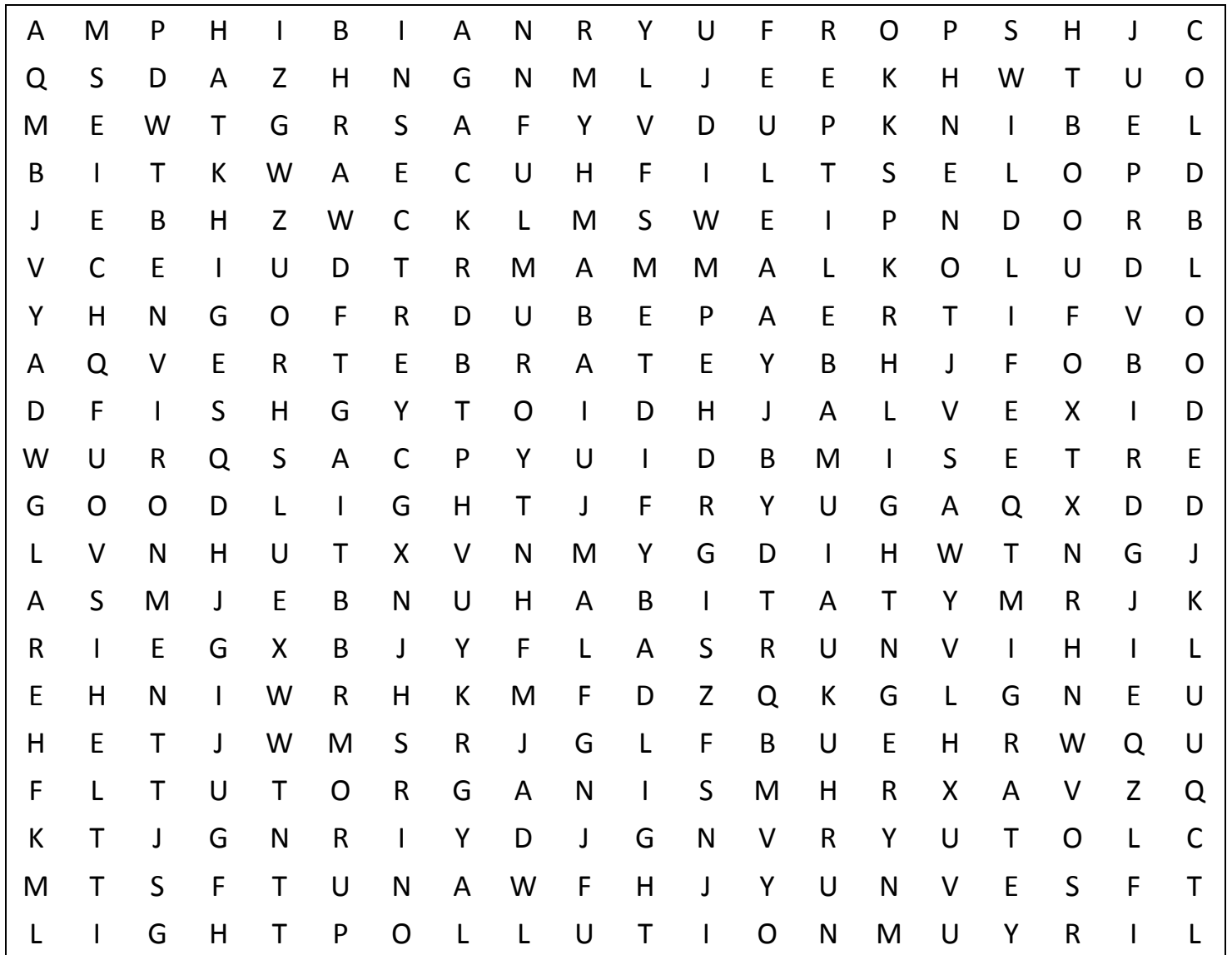


Color Me Crazy!!

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
Insect
Mammal
Reptile
Cold blooded
Bird

Environment
Vertebrate
Fish
Light
Good light
Glare

Habitat
Bad light
Migrate
Organism
Light pollution
Wildlife

How many can you find?

aMAZEing

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!

