Hello, Sleuthhounds!

In this unit, you will be looking for clues and evidence. Here are some sleuth tips to help you. Get ready to take the challenge!
Sleuth Tips

Gather Evidence
Where do sleuths find evidence?
- Sleuths find clues in the text. They use background knowledge or their own experiences as well.
- Sleuths hunt for clues in images. They study data on charts and graphs. They read captions and headings.

Ask Questions
What types of questions do sleuths ask?
- Good sleuths ask questions to find out who, what, when, where, why, and how.
- Sleuths ask about the big picture as well as the details. They ask questions that will help them gather evidence.

Make Your Case
How do sleuths reach a conclusion?
- Sleuths look at the facts they have gathered. Sleuths figure out what conclusion they can draw from the evidence.
- Sleuths know that a strong case is supported by information that is based on facts, not opinions.

Prove It!
How do sleuths prove they have learned something new?
- Sleuths think about what they learned on their own and from others, as well as from asking more questions.
- Sleuths organize the information so that it is presented clearly.
Welcome to the Neighborhood?

Today more and more people live in homes built where wildlife once roamed freely. Some folks enjoy their animal neighbors. For example, they like watching deer or birds in their backyard. Others view the animals as intruders—unwelcome and annoying. Either way, the fact is that humans are increasingly moving into animal territory. Because interactions between people and wild animals can’t be completely avoided, humans must be willing to change some of their habits.

Take birds, for example. They’re often attracted to the brilliant lights of city skyscrapers, but the lights can disrupt the birds’ migration patterns. Some become exhausted and confused, repeatedly circling the buildings. As a result, the birds fall behind schedule. This increases the likelihood that they won’t survive winter storms before reaching their destination. Some cities, such as Chicago, have started voluntary Lights Out programs. Buildings dim or turn off their lights between 11 p.m. and sunrise during the migration season.

Lights on beaches affect wildlife too. Newly hatched sea turtles wait below the sand until dark. Then, instinct and the brightness of the horizon over the water lead them to the sea. If they see lights on the beach, the hatchlings may move toward
them and away from the water. They can become dehydrated on land, and car traffic can also endanger them. One solution is to dim or turn the lights off during the periods in which turtle eggs hatch. Another is to direct the light straight down.

Deer, opossums, and raccoons can do serious damage to gardens and homes. Deer will eat a wide variety of plants, but a fence or bright, motion-activated lights may keep them away. By trimming tree branches, homeowners can prevent opossums and raccoons from jumping onto a roof and, from there, entering an attic or a chimney. An effective way to discourage raccoons, as well as coyotes and red foxes, is to keep garbage cans tightly closed. Also, people shouldn’t leave food outside for their pets. It may attract wildlife. Even an open bird feeder may attract more than birds.

Some people support trapping and relocating unwanted animals, but these actions are often ineffective. Studies show that more than half of the animals that are relocated won’t survive in a new place. Nobody says it will always be easy, but learning how to live side-by-side with wild animals might be a better solution.

### Sleuth Work

**Gather Evidence** List key details in two columns, one for problems wild animals can cause for humans and the other for problems humans can cause for animals.

**Ask Questions** What questions about bird migration or the Lights Out program do you have after reading this article?

**Make Your Case** Does this writer express a point of view on living among animals? Cite details from the text to explain your thinking.