Animals Awake at Night

Most animals on the beach sleep during the nighttime. But some animals stay awake all through the night!

The beaches in Key West, Florida contain thousands of nocturnal animals such as fish, lobsters, and squid. These animals sleep during the day and hunt for food at night.

Scuba divers at Key West can visit the animals each night. The divers jump into the Atlantic Ocean at twilight. Twilight is the time when the sun is still setting. Fish that swim during the day are just starting to rest. They settle into dark coves and hide under rocks. But nocturnal animals are just waking up!

Spiny red lobsters wiggle out of the sandy ocean floor. Reef squid swim by, looking for food. Thousands of tiny plankton dart away from them. Porcupine fish puff up and show the divers their spines. While divers watch for a short time, the animals will swim until dawn. When the sun comes up, it is their turn to sleep.
COMPREHENSION ASSESSMENT

Fill in the circle beside the correct answer.

1 When do nocturnal animals hunt for food?
   A during the day
   B in the afternoon
   C during the night
   D in the morning

2 When do scuba divers start searching for nocturnal fish?
   A at twilight
   B at dawn
   C at midday
   D after midnight

3 Which detail about porcupine fish is most important?
   A They swim in the ocean.
   B They puff up and show their spines.
   C They look for food at night.
   D They stay on the ocean floor.

4 What is the most important idea in the passage?
   A Nocturnal animals hunt for food.
   B Divers watch nocturnal animals.
   C Nocturnal animals stay awake at night.
   D There are thousands of nocturnal animals.

5 What does it mean to determine importance as you read?
   A to find familiar words in the passage
   B to figure out the meanings of words you don’t know
   C to determine how ideas are similar or different
   D to decide what the main ideas of the passage are