

TORTOISE TRACKERS AT ZSL



? Can you spot a small black box on the back of Dirk's shell? (Dirk is our biggest tortoise!)

We are using this device to collect data about what temperatures our tortoises experience and how much ultraviolet light they get.

? What is ultraviolet (UV) light?

UV light is a part of natural sunlight that we can not see. Reptiles need UV in order for their bodies to produce vitamin D. Vitamin D is needed to help their bodies use calcium to make the bones of their large skeletons and egg shells!

DID YOU KNOW
THAT REPTILES ARE
COLD BLOODED?



This means they bask in the sun to warm their bodies up so that they can be active.

DID YOU KNOW?

The keeper team here at ZSL London Zoo have noticed that the tortoises behave differently and use different parts of their enclosure depending on the time of year and what the weather is like.

TASK 1

Use the space below to make your predictions of tortoise behaviour. Think about what tortoises might need and want:

On a warm sunny day the tortoises are likely to be:

Very active or not very active

Inside or outside

Why? _____

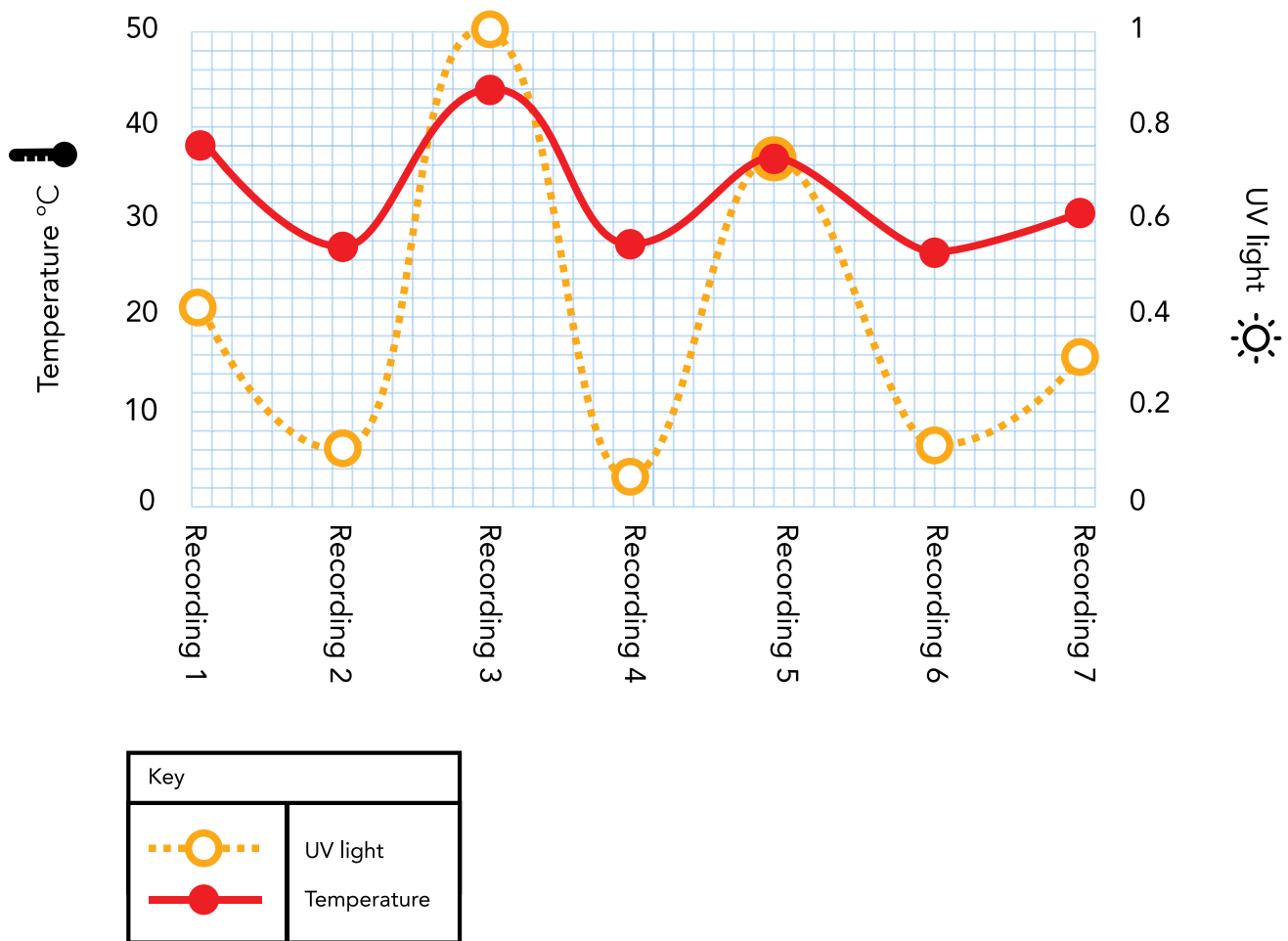
On a cold cloudy day the tortoises are likely to be:

Very active or not very active

Inside or outside

Why? _____

The graph below has 7 recordings of temperature and 7 recordings of UV light taken from the tracker on Dirk's shell.



TASK 2

Fill in the missing gaps of the table below by reading the values from the graph.

	Recording 1	Recording 2	Recording 3	Recording 4	Recording 5	Recording 6	Recording 7
Temp °C	37	_____	43	25	_____	26	30
UV light	0.4	0.1	_____	0	0.7	0.1	0.3

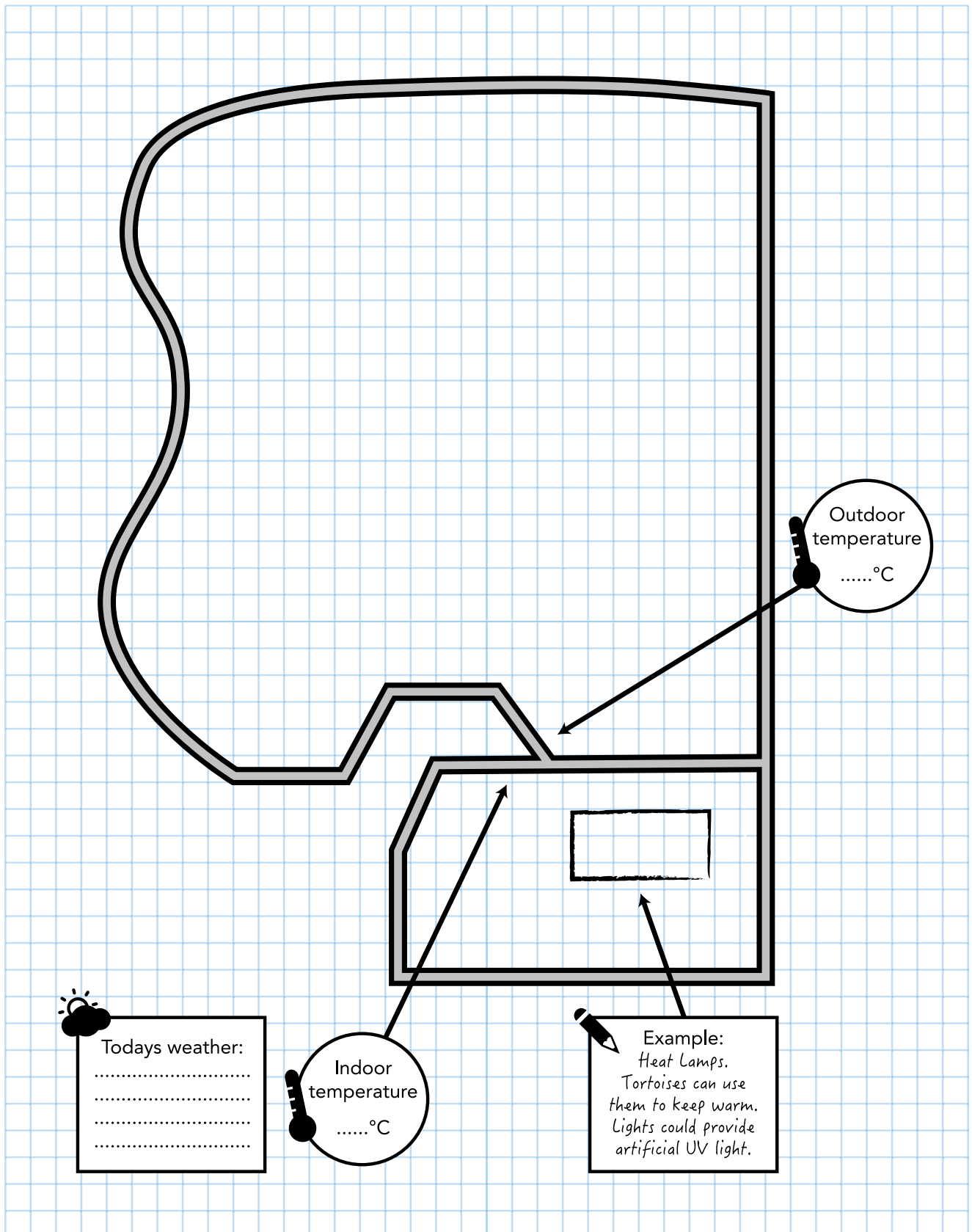
Do you notice any patterns in the logger data?

TASK 3

The recordings were taken at night and during the day. Circle the recordings on the table that you think have been recorded in the day time.

TASK 4

Using a pencil complete the aerial view diagram of the tortoise's ZSL home. Be as accurate as you can and make notes explaining why you think the feature is there.



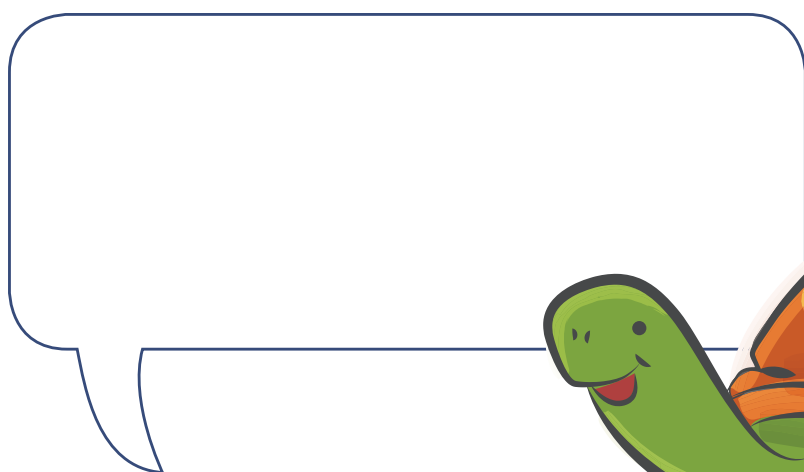
TASK 5

Mark on the diagram (on page 3) where each of the tortoises are today and make a note next to it what they are doing. Explain below why you think the tortoises are behaving the way they are.

How is the habitat of tortoises in the wild different to the habitat of tortoises living in the zoo?

What do you think the Zoo keepers have done to try and make the tortoises feel at home?

Can you suggest how ZSL could improve the tortoises' home?



**FILL IN THE SPEECH BUBBLE
WITH A NEW FACT YOU HAVE
LEARNED ABOUT GALAPAGOS
GIANT TORTOISES!**

