

## Blackout Night Answer Key

1. Families **were sitting in their living rooms** when the lights went out.
2. People **were cooking dinners** on stoves.
3. Children **were doing homework** at their desks.
4. Cars **were honking** in the streets.
5. Neighbors **were helping each other find flashlights**.

### Teacher Notes / Guide

- This passage demonstrates how **past continuous paints the background of historical events**, while simple past (e.g., “the lights went out”) shows sudden, interrupting actions.
- Students should notice the contrast between **ongoing actions** (*were sitting, were cooking*) and the **big event** (*the blackout*).
- Encourage students to underline all the **was/were + verb-ing** forms in the passage before answering.
- Extension idea: Have students choose another historical moment (e.g., during a storm, at the start of a war, or a famous invention day) and write 4-5 sentences describing what people **were doing** at that time.