Falcons Return Home

Find how a central idea grows across an informational text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.2 "Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the one sentence that best states the passage's central idea. Then number 1, 2, and 3 beside three details that explain how peregrine falcons recovered.

A City Falcon's Return

1 On a spring morning, Maya stood beneath a city bridge and watched a peregrine falcon circle above the traffic. The bird folded its wings, dropped quickly, and caught a pigeon in the air. Years earlier, Maya's grandfather had rarely seen peregrines. A pesticide called DDT had weakened their eggshells, so many chicks did not survive. By the 1970s, peregrine falcons had nearly disappeared from much of the United States. Their loss worried scientists and bird watchers.

2 Scientists and volunteers worked to bring the falcons back. In 1972, the United States banned most uses of DDT. Breeding programs raised young falcons in safe places, then released them near cliffs and tall buildings. People also protected nesting sites from disturbance. These steps mattered because peregrines can use ledges on skyscrapers much like the rocky cliffs where they once nested. The cities that seemed dangerous became useful homes. Soon, observers began reporting more nesting pairs each spring.

3 Today, peregrine falcons nest in many American cities, including Chicago, New York, and Minneapolis. Their recovery did not happen from one action alone. The DDT ban removed a major danger, while breeding programs and protected nests helped more birds live long enough to raise chicks. The falcons' return shows how people can repair harm when they identify a problem and keep working over time. Maya now records the birds she sees and shares her notes with a local wildlife group.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What central idea does the passage develop about peregrine falcons?

2. How does paragraph 1 help develop the central idea?

3. Name three actions from paragraph 2 that helped peregrine falcons recover.

4. Write a two-sentence summary of the passage. Include the problem, the main actions taken, and the result.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a different article or book section you have read recently. Write three sentences: state its central idea, give two important supporting details, and explain how the details build the central idea.

ANSWER KEY

Falcons Return Home

GRADES K-12 · CCRA.R.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the one sentence that best states the passage's central idea. Then number 1, 2, and 3 beside three details that explain how peregrine falcons recovered. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What central idea does the passage develop about peregrine falcons?	**Peregrine falcons recovered because people took several sustained actions to remove dangers and support the birds.**
2	How does paragraph 1 help develop the central idea?	**It explains that DDT weakened eggshells and caused peregrine numbers to drop sharply, showing the problem that needed to be repaired.**
3	Name three actions from paragraph 2 that helped peregrine falcons recover.	**The United States banned most uses of DDT, breeding programs raised and released young falcons, and people protected nesting sites.**
4	Write a two-sentence summary of the passage. Include the problem, the main actions taken, and the result.	**DDT weakened peregrine falcon eggshells, and the birds nearly disappeared from much of the United States. A DDT ban, breeding programs, and protected nests helped peregrines return to many American cities.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In an article about a community garden, the central idea was that neighbors can improve a shared space by working together. The article explained that volunteers cleared trash and planted vegetables, and local businesses donated tools and seeds. These details show that the garden changed because many people contributed useful work and supplies.

Accept central ideas that connect the falcons' decline, several human actions, and their recovery. For summaries, accept equivalent wording when students include the DDT problem, key recovery actions, and the return of the birds.