Falcons Above Town

Trace details to find a central idea and write an objective summary.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.2 "Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show how peregrine falcons live in cities or how people help protect them. Number the details 1, 2, and 3 in the order they appear to help you determine the central idea.

Peregrines in the City

1 Each spring, a pair of peregrine falcons may raise chicks on a city skyscraper. The birds once nested mainly on cliffs, but tall buildings offer ledges that resemble cliff faces. From high perches, peregrines can watch for pigeons and other prey flying below. A peregrine catches prey in a steep, fast dive called a stoop. Its pointed wings and strong eyesight help it hunt in open air, even among busy streets and traffic each day.

2 City nesting is not always easy. Glass windows can confuse birds because they reflect the sky or nearby buildings. Loud construction, bright nighttime lights, and people who get too close can also disturb a nest. Some building managers help by placing nest boxes on safe ledges and blocking access to dangerous areas during nesting season. Wildlife groups sometimes watch the nests with cameras. These cameras let people observe the birds without climbing near the chicks or interrupting the adults.

3 Peregrine falcons nearly disappeared from much of North America in the mid-1900s after the pesticide DDT weakened their eggshells. When DDT was banned in the United States and conservation programs released captive-bred birds, populations began to recover. Today, many cities protect nest sites and share camera views with residents. City falcons show how a wild animal can use human-made spaces, while people can reduce dangers and give the birds room to raise young safely each year.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the central idea of the passage? Write one complete sentence.

2. Give two details from different paragraphs that support the central idea.

3. How does paragraph 3 connect the falcons' past decline to their city nests today?

4. A student writes, "City falcons are more exciting than other birds." Why should this sentence not be included in an objective summary?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 45-60 word objective summary of the passage. State the central idea and include at least three accurate details from different paragraphs, without adding opinions.

ANSWER KEY

Falcons Above Town

GRADE 6 · RI.6.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show how peregrine falcons live in cities or how people help protect them. Number the details 1, 2, and 3 in the order they appear to help you determine the central idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the central idea of the passage? Write one complete sentence.	**Peregrine falcons can live in cities, but their survival there depends partly on human actions that reduce risks and support nesting.**
2	Give two details from different paragraphs that support the central idea.	**Possible details: Skyscraper ledges resemble cliffs where falcons naturally nest; nest boxes and blocked-off areas protect city nests; cities protect nest sites after conservation efforts helped falcons recover.**
3	How does paragraph 3 connect the falcons' past decline to their city nests today?	**It explains that DDT weakened eggshells and caused a decline, then shows that a ban, conservation, and city protection helped peregrines recover and nest safely.**
4	A student writes, "City falcons are more exciting than other birds." Why should this sentence not be included in an objective summary?	**It is a personal judgment, and the passage does not compare peregrine falcons with other birds.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Peregrine falcons can adapt to city life when people reduce dangers. They nest on skyscrapers because building ledges resemble cliffs and hunt from high perches. City hazards, including reflective glass and disturbance, can threaten nests, though nest boxes and cameras can help. After DDT weakened eggshells, bans and conservation aided recovery.

Accept central ideas that explain both city adaptation and the role of human protection. Summaries should state the main idea, use accurate supporting details, and avoid opinions, comparisons, or unsupported claims.