Falcon Evidence File

Use details to support what the text states and what it suggests.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.1 "Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline at least five details that state facts about the falcons, the tray, or the observations. Put a star beside two details that could support an inference about the tray's value or limits.

A Nesting Tray for Peregrines

1 Each spring, a pair of peregrine falcons returns to the ledge of Riverton's old courthouse. The birds do not build a nest of sticks. Instead, they lay eggs in a shallow scrape on gravel. In 2018, volunteers noticed that rainwater pooled on the ledge, soaking the scrape after storms. They asked the city to place a wooden nesting tray there. The tray has drainage holes and a low rim that keeps eggs from rolling. City workers installed it before the next breeding season.

2 Volunteers watch from across the street and record what they see without approaching the ledge. During the first season with the tray, the female laid four eggs. Three chicks survived until they could fly, called fledging. The observers also saw fewer eggs moved by wind or water than in earlier years. The tray did not provide food, and volunteers never fed the falcons. Adult peregrines caught pigeons and other birds in the air, as they normally do. By limiting their visits, the volunteers avoided disturbing the adults near the chicks.

3 Riverton now posts the volunteers' observations on a library website. The records show the dates when eggs appeared, chicks hatched, and young birds first flew. They also note weather conditions and whether the adults returned after a storm. Biologists can compare these notes from year to year, but they cannot use them to prove that the tray alone caused every change. A mild spring, for example, might also help chicks survive. Still, the city plans to inspect the tray each winter and replace its gravel when needed.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What two details show how the nesting tray was designed to protect the eggs? Cite both details.

2. How did the volunteers try to collect information without changing the falcons' behavior? Cite at least two details.

3. What can you infer about the city's view of the nesting tray? State your inference and cite three details that support it.

4. Why can biologists not prove that the tray alone caused changes in chick survival? Cite two details to support your answer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph explaining whether the volunteers use careful methods for monitoring the falcons. Make a claim, cite at least three details from the passage, and explain the inference those details support.

ANSWER KEY

Falcon Evidence File

GRADE 7 · RI.7.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline at least five details that state facts about the falcons, the tray, or the observations. Put a star beside two details that could support an inference about the tray's value or limits. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two details show how the nesting tray was designed to protect the eggs? Cite both details.	**The tray has drainage holes, which let water escape, and a low rim, which keeps eggs from rolling.**
2	How did the volunteers try to collect information without changing the falcons' behavior? Cite at least two details.	**They watched from across the street without approaching the ledge, never fed the falcons, and limited visits near the chicks.**
3	What can you infer about the city's view of the nesting tray? State your inference and cite three details that support it.	**The city likely believes the tray is useful enough to maintain. It drains rainwater, fewer eggs were moved by wind or water, and the city plans to inspect it and replace gravel when needed.**
4	Why can biologists not prove that the tray alone caused changes in chick survival? Cite two details to support your answer.	**Other factors may affect survival. The records include weather conditions, and the passage explains that a mild spring might also help chicks survive.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The volunteers use careful monitoring methods. The passage states that they watch from across the street, do not feed the falcons, and limit visits near the chicks. These facts show that the volunteers try not to alter the birds' behavior, so their observations are likely more trustworthy.

Accept relevant quoted or paraphrased evidence when it accurately supports the student's claim or inference. For inference responses, students should connect multiple details to a reasonable conclusion rather than simply list facts.