City Sky Hunters

Use details to build a balanced conclusion.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.9 "Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that support a possible conclusion about the topic, and circle details that limit or complicate that conclusion. Use your marks to choose evidence for your answers.

Peregrines Above the City

1 On a downtown bridge, a peregrine falcon may look like an unusual visitor. Yet many peregrines now nest in cities across North America. Tall buildings and bridge towers resemble the cliffs where the birds traditionally raise their young. A pair usually chooses a high ledge that is difficult for predators to reach. City wildlife workers sometimes place a gravel-filled nest tray on a ledge because peregrines do not build stick nests. The tray keeps eggs from rolling across smooth surfaces.

2 Cities also offer an important food source. Pigeons, starlings, and other birds gather near buildings, parks, and train stations. Peregrines hunt these birds in flight, often diving at high speed. Researchers who study urban peregrines have found that some pairs raise as many young as pairs living near natural cliffs. However, city life creates risks. Glass windows can confuse flying birds, and construction near a nest can cause adults to leave temporarily. Wildlife workers may block access to a nesting ledge during the breeding season.

3 Urban peregrines show how a wild species can adjust to a human-made environment, but their success is not automatic. High structures give the birds nest sites, while nearby flocks provide prey. At the same time, the risks in a city mean that people can affect whether a nest succeeds. Protecting a quiet ledge during breeding season is one example. The evidence suggests that a city can become suitable habitat when it supplies needed resources and when people reduce preventable dangers.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What conclusion about city habitat does paragraph 3 support? Give two details from earlier paragraphs that support it.

2. How does the nest-tray detail help explain why peregrines can nest on city structures? Use the detail and your reasoning.

3. What evidence best supports the idea that human activity can hurt a nesting pair? Explain how it supports the idea.

4. A student says, "A city is always a safe place for peregrines." Use two details from paragraph 2 to challenge this claim.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly four sentences that make a new conclusion about the relationship between people and urban peregrines. State your conclusion, use two details from the passage, and explain how each detail supports your conclusion.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that support a possible conclusion about the topic, and circle details that limit or complicate that conclusion. Use your marks to choose evidence for your answers. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What conclusion about city habitat does paragraph 3 support? Give two details from earlier paragraphs that support it.	**Cities can be suitable habitat for peregrines when they provide resources and reduce dangers. Tall ledges provide nest sites, and nearby pigeons and other birds provide food.**
2	How does the nest-tray detail help explain why peregrines can nest on city structures? Use the detail and your reasoning.	**Peregrines do not build stick nests, so eggs could roll on a smooth ledge. A gravel-filled tray holds the eggs in place, making the ledge safer for nesting.**
3	What evidence best supports the idea that human activity can hurt a nesting pair? Explain how it supports the idea.	**Construction near a nest can cause adults to leave temporarily. This shows that human activity can disturb the birds during nesting.**
4	A student says, "A city is always a safe place for peregrines." Use two details from paragraph 2 to challenge this claim.	**Glass windows can confuse flying birds, and construction near a nest can cause adults to leave temporarily. These details show that cities can create dangers for peregrines.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

People can help urban peregrines nest successfully. Wildlife workers place gravel-filled trays on smooth ledges, which keep eggs from rolling. Workers also block access to nesting ledges during breeding season, which reduces disturbance that can make adults leave temporarily. These actions show that human choices can reduce city dangers for nesting birds.

Accept reasonable conclusions that are supported by two accurate passage details and clear explanations. For the open task, check that the response has exactly four sentences and includes a conclusion, two details, and reasoning.