City Sky Hunters

Read, mark, and restate key ideas in your own words.

ELA.8.R.3.2 "Paraphrase content from grade-level texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a short group of words in each paragraph that states its main idea. Circle two details in each paragraph that you could use to explain that idea in your own words.

Peregrines Above the Streets

1. Many cities now host peregrine falcons, birds once endangered in much of the United States because of DDT, a pesticide that weakened eggshells. After DDT was banned in 1972 and protection efforts expanded, populations recovered. Tall buildings offer ledges that resemble the cliffs where peregrines naturally nest. From these high places, the birds can spot pigeons and other prey. A peregrine can dive at more than 200 miles per hour, making it one of the fastest animals on Earth.

2. City nesting is not always simple. Glass walls can confuse birds, and busy streets create noise below the nest. Some building managers work with wildlife groups to place nest boxes on safe rooftops and to report nest locations to researchers. Researchers may attach small bands to chicks so they can learn where young falcons travel after leaving the nest. These efforts help scientists track the population without approaching nests too often, which could disturb the adult birds.

3. Residents can support the birds without treating them as pets. People can watch from a distance, keep dogs away from areas beneath active nests, and avoid feeding pigeons near nesting sites. Feeding pigeons may increase the number of prey animals, but it can also draw crowds and change the falcons' hunting area. During nesting season, some communities share viewing updates online so people can observe responsibly. A city can be valuable habitat when people make room for wildlife and respect its needs.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In one sentence, paraphrase why peregrine falcons returned to many cities and what city buildings provide for them.

2. Paraphrase one problem peregrines face in cities and one way people address that problem.

3. Paraphrase how bands on young falcons help researchers. Do not copy a full sentence from the passage.

4. Write two actions residents can take to support peregrine falcons, using your own words.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 45 to 60 word paraphrase of the whole passage for a city newsletter. Explain what helped peregrines return, include one city challenge, and describe how people should act around the birds.

ANSWER KEY

City Sky Hunters

GRADE 8 · ELA.8.R.3.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a short group of words in each paragraph that states its main idea. Circle two details in each paragraph that you could use to explain that idea in your own words. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In one sentence, paraphrase why peregrine falcons returned to many cities and what city buildings provide for them.	**After DDT was banned and conservation increased, peregrine numbers grew, and tall buildings gave them cliff-like places to nest and hunt.**
2	Paraphrase one problem peregrines face in cities and one way people address that problem.	**City glass and noise can make nesting difficult, so building managers and wildlife groups create safer rooftop nest spaces and share nest information with researchers.**
3	Paraphrase how bands on young falcons help researchers. Do not copy a full sentence from the passage.	**Bands allow scientists to learn where young peregrines go after they leave their nests, helping them monitor the birds while limiting disturbance.**
4	Write two actions residents can take to support peregrine falcons, using your own words.	**Residents can observe the birds from far away and keep dogs away from places beneath active nests. They may also avoid feeding pigeons near nesting areas.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After pesticide restrictions and conservation work, peregrine falcons began using tall city buildings as nest sites. Urban life brings dangers such as confusing glass, so managers and scientists monitor nests carefully. Residents can help by giving the birds space, controlling dogs near nests, and not feeding pigeons.

Accept responses that accurately restate the passage's ideas in different wording and preserve the relationships among causes, challenges, and actions. Minor differences in wording are acceptable if the meaning remains accurate.