City Falcon Clues

Use passage details to support clear conclusions.

ELA.K12.EE.1.1 "Cite evidence to explain and justify reasoning."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that could be used as evidence in an explanation about peregrine falcons. Number the details 1, 2, and 3 so you can find them again.

Falcons Above the City

1. High above a busy city street, a peregrine falcon lands on a sheltered ledge of a tall building. The ledge is protected by an overhang, so its nest is less exposed to heavy rain. From this height, the bird can watch pigeons flying below. Peregrine falcons often choose high places because cliffs, their natural nesting sites, are also high and rocky.

2. City falcons do not build nests from sticks. Instead, a female may lay her eggs in a shallow scrape, a small hollow in gravel or other loose material. On some buildings, people place gravel in nest boxes or on protected ledges. These spaces can give eggs a surface that does not roll easily and can help keep young birds away from people and dogs.

3. Scientists have found that peregrine falcons can hunt quickly in cities. Their pointed wings help them fly fast, and their eyesight helps them spot prey from far away. A falcon may dive toward a bird in the air, a move called a stoop. However, city life can bring dangers, including glass windows, traffic, and places where people disturb nests.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why might a peregrine falcon choose a tall city building? Use two details from the passage to explain your answer.

2. Explain why gravel can be useful in a peregrine falcon nest. Cite evidence from the passage.

3. A student says, "Peregrine falcons make nests from sticks on city buildings." Is this statement supported by the passage? Cite evidence to justify your answer.

4. Why might glass windows be dangerous for a hunting peregrine falcon? Use details from the passage and your reasoning.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Decide whether city life can be helpful for peregrine falcons. Write 3 or 4 sentences with a clear claim, at least two details from the passage, and reasoning that explains how the details support your claim.

ANSWER KEY

City Falcon Clues

GRADE 5 · ELA.K12.EE.1.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three details that could be used as evidence in an explanation about peregrine falcons. Number the details 1, 2, and 3 so you can find them again. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why might a peregrine falcon choose a tall city building? Use two details from the passage to explain your answer.	**A tall building is like the high, rocky cliffs that peregrines use naturally, and its height lets a falcon watch pigeons flying below.**
2	Explain why gravel can be useful in a peregrine falcon nest. Cite evidence from the passage.	**Gravel can form a shallow scrape and give eggs a surface that does not roll easily.**
3	A student says, "Peregrine falcons make nests from sticks on city buildings." Is this statement supported by the passage? Cite evidence to justify your answer.	**No. The passage says that city falcons do not build nests from sticks and may lay eggs in a shallow scrape in gravel or other loose material.**
4	Why might glass windows be dangerous for a hunting peregrine falcon? Use details from the passage and your reasoning.	**Falcons hunt quickly and may dive toward birds in the air. Because the passage names glass windows as a city danger, a fast-moving falcon could collide with a window.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

City life can be helpful for peregrine falcons. The passage says that tall buildings are high like the cliffs where peregrines naturally nest, and they let falcons watch pigeons below. It also says that protected ledges make nests less exposed to heavy rain. These details show that cities can offer useful places to hunt and nest.

Accept answers that make a reasonable conclusion and cite accurate passage details. For the open task, look for a claim, at least two relevant details, and reasoning that connects the details to the claim.