Falcon Facts Takeoff

Study how a model informational text is built.

5.T.T.2.d "Apply expository techniques that clearly introduce a topic, group paragraphs or sections to develop the topic with facts and other information (e.g., definitions, concrete details, quotations), use precise language..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that introduces the topic, circle one precise word in each paragraph, and box the concluding statement so you can see how the text is organized.

Peregrine Falcons

1. Peregrine falcons are powerful birds of prey that live on every continent except Antarctica. A bird of prey hunts other animals for food. Peregrines have blue-gray backs, pale chests with dark bars, and pointed wings. Their body shape helps them fly quickly through open air. These birds can live near cliffs, coastlines, and even tall city buildings.

2. When a peregrine spots a pigeon or another bird, it may begin a steep hunting dive called a stoop. During this dive, the falcon tucks its wings and uses gravity to gain speed. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology reports that peregrines can reach more than 200 miles per hour in a stoop. Fast flight helps the falcon catch prey in midair.

3. Peregrines once became rare in North America because DDT, a pesticide, made their eggshells thin. After DDT was banned in the United States in 1972, populations recovered with help from protection programs. Today, people can support these falcons by keeping nesting areas safe. Peregrine falcons show how special body features and careful conservation can help a species survive.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Copy the sentence that clearly introduces the topic of the passage.

2. Why does paragraph 2 belong in its own section of the text? Use details from the paragraph.

3. What definition does the first paragraph give for the phrase *bird of prey*?

4. Copy the concluding statement. What main idea does it leave the reader with?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-section mini article about an animal you know well. Use a heading for each section, introduce the topic, include at least three factual details and one precise word, then end with a concluding statement.

ANSWER KEY

Falcon Facts Takeoff

GRADE 5 · 5.T.T.2.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that introduces the topic, circle one precise word in each paragraph, and box the concluding statement so you can see how the text is organized. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy the sentence that clearly introduces the topic of the passage.	**Peregrine falcons are powerful birds of prey that live on every continent except Antarctica.**
2	Why does paragraph 2 belong in its own section of the text? Use details from the paragraph.	**It develops the topic by explaining how peregrines hunt and how fast they can fly during a stoop.**
3	What definition does the first paragraph give for the phrase *bird of prey*?	**A bird of prey hunts other animals for food.**
4	Copy the concluding statement. What main idea does it leave the reader with?	**Peregrine falcons show how special body features and careful conservation can help a species survive. It leaves the idea that the falcons' features and protection have helped them survive.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Sea Otters What They Are Sea otters are marine mammals that spend much of their time in coastal ocean water. **How They Stay Warm** Their extremely dense fur traps air close to their skin. Unlike many marine mammals, sea otters rely on this fur, not a thick layer of blubber, to stay warm. **Why They Matter** Sea otters eat sea urchins, which can protect kelp forests from heavy grazing. These furry swimmers help keep ocean habitats healthy.

Accept equivalent explanations that identify the introduction, organized detail section, definition, precise language, and conclusion. For the mini article, accept accurate animal facts organized into three labeled sections with a clear opening and ending.