Clues Above the City

Use nearby details to figure out unfamiliar words.

6.L.V.3.a "This progression transitions to 6-8.L.V.3.b."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the words or phrases near eyrie, migration, band, trend, and trace that help you infer each word's meaning. Number the five groups of clues 1 through 5.

Falcons in the City

1 On tall city buildings, peregrine falcons use ledges much like the cliffs where they once nested. A nesting pair may choose a sheltered corner, called an eyrie, that keeps eggs away from wind and heavy rain. In spring, volunteers sometimes watch the site from the street. They record when the adults bring food and when the young birds first appear. These observations help scientists learn whether the falcons are raising chicks safely in a busy place above the traffic.

2 City falcons face hazards that their cliff-dwelling relatives rarely meet. A window can reflect the sky, making glass seem like open air to a fast-flying bird. Some buildings dim lights during migration, the seasonal movement of animals from one region to another. This change can reduce collisions at night. Wildlife workers also place a small band, or numbered ring, around a chick's leg. If the bird is seen later, the band helps researchers trace its travels.

3 These records can reveal a surprising pattern. A chick that leaves its eyrie may return to the same city years later to breed. Yet a single sighting is not enough to prove a trend, a repeated change over time. Researchers compare many reports before they draw a conclusion. When residents report a falcon, they should note the date, location, and any leg band they can read from a safe distance. Careful reports turn quick glimpses into useful evidence.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does eyrie most likely mean? Which details in paragraph 1 support your answer?

2. What does migration mean in paragraph 2? Use nearby words to explain.

3. What does trend most likely mean in paragraph 3? What words give you the clue?

4. What does trace most likely mean in the last sentence of paragraph 2? Explain how the band helps researchers do it.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two or three sentences about a different animal. Use one precise word that a reader may not know, and include at least two context clues that reveal its meaning without using the word means.

ANSWER KEY

Clues Above the City

GRADE 6 · 6.L.V.3.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the words or phrases near eyrie, migration, band, trend, and trace that help you infer each word's meaning. Number the five groups of clues 1 through 5. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does eyrie most likely mean? Which details in paragraph 1 support your answer?	**An eyrie is a sheltered nest site for falcons. The passage calls it a sheltered corner and says it keeps eggs away from wind and heavy rain.**
2	What does migration mean in paragraph 2? Use nearby words to explain.	**Migration is the seasonal movement of animals from one region to another.**
3	What does trend most likely mean in paragraph 3? What words give you the clue?	**A trend is a repeated change or pattern over time. The clue is "a repeated change over time."**
4	What does trace most likely mean in the last sentence of paragraph 2? Explain how the band helps researchers do it.	**Trace means follow or track the bird's travels. A numbered leg band can identify the bird when it is seen later.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At dusk, the octopus became nocturnal, hiding in its rocky den during the bright day and hunting after sunset. Its wide eyes searched the dark water while sleeping fish rested.

Accept reasonable meanings that are supported by nearby details in the passage. For Part 3, check that the response has two or three sentences, uses a potentially unfamiliar precise word, and gives at least two clues to its meaning.