

Falcons Above Town

Use details from an informational text to support a claim.

7W5 “Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. Apply grade 7 Reading standards to both literary and informational text, where applicable.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that could support the claim that peregrine falcons can live successfully in cities. Number the details 1, 2, and 3 so you can use them as evidence.

Peregrines in the City

- ① On a spring morning, a peregrine falcon lands on a ledge of a downtown library. Its blue-gray back blends with the building's shadow, but its call carries over traffic. Peregrines once disappeared from many parts of North America after the pesticide DDT weakened their eggshells. When DDT was restricted in the United States in 1972, conservationists began protecting nests and raising some young falcons in captivity. By 1999, the bird had recovered enough to be removed from the federal endangered species list.
- ② Today, tall city buildings can serve as cliff-like nesting places. In 2023, volunteers watching a pair in Milwaukee recorded four chicks leaving a nest on a high ledge. The adults hunted pigeons and other birds in nearby open spaces, then carried prey to the chicks. However, city life is not automatically safe. Glass windows can injure flying birds, and construction work near a nest may disturb adults. Wildlife staff sometimes ask building crews to delay noisy work until young falcons can fly.
- ③ People can help researchers learn where peregrines thrive. A resident who sees a falcon does not need to approach the nest. Instead, the resident can note the date, location, and behavior, such as carrying food or chasing another bird, and report the observation to a local wildlife program. One report cannot prove that a nesting site is successful. Many reports collected over several seasons, however, can show whether adults return, whether chicks are seen, and which dangers appear most often. Careful observations turn a surprising sight into useful evidence.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What claim about city buildings is supported by the Milwaukee observation? Use two details from the passage in your answer.

2 How does paragraph 1 support the conclusion that actions by people helped peregrines recover? Cite two details.

3 Why would a researcher want a resident to record the date, location, and behavior of a falcon? Support your answer with evidence from paragraph 3.

4 Does the passage provide enough evidence to conclude that every city nesting site is successful? Explain why or why not with evidence from the text.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a five-sentence recommendation to a city library that has discovered a peregrine nest on its ledge. State whether the library should protect the nesting area, use at least three details from the passage as evidence, and explain how the details support your recommendation.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three details that could support the claim that peregrine falcons can live successfully in cities. Number the details 1, 2, and 3 so you can use them as evidence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What claim about city buildings is supported by the Milwaukee observation? Use two details from the passage in your answer.	City buildings can provide nesting places for peregrines. Volunteers saw a pair nesting on a high ledge in Milwaukee, and they recorded four chicks leaving the nest.
2	How does paragraph 1 support the conclusion that actions by people helped peregrines recover? Cite two details.	DDT was restricted in 1972, and conservationists protected nests and raised some young falcons in captivity. By 1999, peregrines had recovered enough to be removed from the federal endangered species list.
3	Why would a researcher want a resident to record the date, location, and behavior of a falcon? Support your answer with evidence from paragraph 3.	These details can help researchers compare many reports over several seasons. The reports can show whether adults return, whether chicks are seen, and which dangers appear most often.
4	Does the passage provide enough evidence to conclude that every city nesting site is successful? Explain why or why not with evidence from the text.	No. The passage states that one report cannot prove a nesting site is successful, and it explains that glass windows and nearby construction can create dangers for city falcons.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The library should protect the nesting area during the breeding season. Tall buildings can act like cliffs, so the ledge can provide a place for a nest. In Milwaukee, volunteers saw four chicks leave a nest on a high ledge, showing that city nests can produce young. The library should also limit noisy construction nearby because it can disturb adults. Staff could ask visitors to report sightings from a distance, since reports over several seasons help researchers identify dangers.

Accept claims supported by accurate passage evidence and clear explanations of how the evidence supports the claim. For the open response, accept either a recommendation to protect the nest or a qualified plan, if the student uses at least three accurate details and writes five sentences.