

Falcons Above Town

Trace the ideas that build a text's meaning.

5.7.G "discuss specific ideas in the text that are important to the meaning."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline any three details about human harm or help. Write Harm or Help beside each. With a partner, take turns explaining how one marked detail builds the passage's meaning; respond to your partner with another detail.

Peregrines in the City

- ① On a spring morning, a peregrine falcon may perch on a city skyscraper. Its sharp eyes scan below for pigeons and other birds to eat. Tall buildings offer ledges like the cliffs where peregrines also nest. Their speed helps them catch this prey. City life still brings dangers from windows, traffic and disturbed nest sites.
- ② In the 1940s and 1950s, a pesticide called DDT entered food chains. Peregrines that ate contaminated birds laid eggs with thin shells, so many eggs broke before chicks hatched. By the 1960s, peregrines had nearly disappeared from much of the eastern United States. The 1972 U.S. ban on DDT removed one major threat, allowing populations to begin recovering.
- ③ Today, wildlife groups place nest boxes on some tall buildings and watch nests from a distance. Volunteers record when eggs hatch and report injured birds to trained rehabilitators. These actions do not make a city wild. Instead, they show that people can change harmful choices and then help animals use safer spaces. Peregrines now nest in many North American cities.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** How does the comparison between skyscrapers and cliff ledges help explain why peregrines can live in cities?

- 2** Why is the detail about thin eggshells important to the passage's meaning?

- 3** Name any two actions in paragraph 3 that show people helping peregrine falcons.

- 4** How do paragraphs 2 and 3 work together to develop the passage's main meaning?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences for a nature-center sign about peregrines in cities. State a main idea from the passage, then explain how one detail from paragraph 1 and one detail from paragraph 3 support that idea.

[illegible]

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline any three details about human harm or help. Write Harm or Help beside each. With a partner, take turns explaining how one marked detail builds the passage's meaning; respond to your partner with another detail. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the comparison between skyscrapers and cliff ledges help explain why peregrines can live in cities?	It explains that tall buildings provide ledges that are like the cliffs where peregrines naturally nest.
2	Why is the detail about thin eggshells important to the passage's meaning?	It shows how DDT harmed peregrines by causing eggs to break before chicks could hatch.
3	Name any two actions in paragraph 3 that show people helping peregrine falcons.	Wildlife groups place nest boxes and watch nests, while volunteers record hatching and report injured birds to rehabilitators. Accept any two of these actions.
4	How do paragraphs 2 and 3 work together to develop the passage's main meaning?	Paragraph 2 shows that a human choice harmed peregrines and that banning DDT removed a threat. Paragraph 3 shows people continuing to help peregrines use safer city spaces.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Cities can become useful habitats when people notice what animals need. Skyscrapers can act like cliff ledges, giving peregrines places to perch and nest. Nest boxes and careful nest watching can make these city spaces safer for the birds.

Accept any three supported annotations, such as pesticide use and thin shells (Harm), or the ban, nest boxes, distant monitoring and injury reporting (Help). Check that each partner explains a detail's importance and responds with evidence. For question 3 accept any two of the four actions. The three-sentence sign must connect a main idea to one detail from paragraph 1 and one from paragraph 3. Background checked against U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, *The Peregrine Falcon is Back!* (fws.gov/story/2000-08/peregrine-falcon-back), and National Park Service, *Peregrine Falcons*, Acadia (nps.gov/acad/learn/nature/peregrine-falcons-in-acadia.htm).