

Facts That Fly

Revise an actual draft for clarity, accuracy, and useful elaboration.

10.W.3.A "Revise writing for clarity of content, accuracy, and adequate elaboration."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Paragraph 1 is an intentionally flawed draft. Mark inaccurate claims and unclear references. Use the verified facts in paragraph 2 to revise; paragraph 3 explains the audience and purpose.

Peregrines Above the City: A Revision Workshop

- ① Flawed draft for editing: All peregrine falcons live in cities now. They fly at 200 miles per hour all day, so they can catch only pigeons. Buildings saved them after they were nearly gone. It made their eggs stronger, and this proves people solved every problem. These amazing birds are basically perfect hunters. Everyone should know that they are fast and that this helped them. Their story shows that once you put up a nest box, wildlife recovery takes care of itself.
- ② Verified reference notes: Peregrine falcons nest on high cliffs and also use tall human structures such as buildings and bridges. A hunting dive, or stoop, may exceed 200 miles per hour; this is not their constant or ordinary flight speed. They hunt birds, including pigeons, rather than only pigeons. DDT contributed to population declines by thinning eggshells, which could break before young hatched. Restrictions on DDT and recovery efforts, including reintroduction, helped populations recover. These notes paraphrase National Park Service information: nps.gov/arch/learn/nature/peregrine.htm and nps.gov/shen/learn/nature/falcon.htm.
- ③ Revision brief: Write for a school nature-club display explaining how peregrines hunt and why recovery required more than buildings. Preserve useful ideas from the draft, but replace unsupported absolutes, specify unclear pronouns and add explanations that help readers understand facts. Use only the supplied reference notes; do not introduce an unverified number or a claim that every conservation problem is solved. Revision may require reorganizing sentences and deleting misleading claims, not merely replacing a few words. The final paragraph should read as a coherent explanation rather than a list of corrections.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** Revise the first sentence for accuracy while keeping the topic. Explain which absolute you removed.

- 2** Rewrite the speed-and-diet sentence to distinguish a hunting dive from ordinary flight and correct the diet claim.

- 3** Replace “It made their eggs stronger” with a clear sentence grounded in the reference. Add an explanation of why thinner shells matter.

- 4** Revise the final sentence so it accurately explains recovery without promising that one action solves everything.

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

Revise the entire flawed draft into one coherent 100-140-word paragraph for the nature-club display. Include accurate habitat, hunting and recovery information, clear references, useful explanations and attribution to the National Park Service. Then explain one change each for clarity, accuracy and elaboration.

Revised paragraph

Reorganize or remove misleading material as needed; use the supplied facts.

Revision decisions

Name an original problem and your improvement for clarity, accuracy and elaboration. Point to exact wording in your revision.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Paragraph 1 is an intentionally flawed draft. Mark inaccurate claims and unclear references. Use the verified facts in paragraph 2 to revise; paragraph 3 explains the audience and purpose. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Revise the first sentence for accuracy while keeping the topic. Explain which absolute you removed.	Peregrine falcons nest on high cliffs and also use tall city structures. This removes the unsupported claim that all now live in cities.
2	Rewrite the speed-and-diet sentence to distinguish a hunting dive from ordinary flight and correct the diet claim.	A peregrine's hunting dive may exceed 200 miles per hour as it pursues birds, including pigeons. The speed applies to a dive, and pigeons are one example rather than the only prey.
3	Replace "It made their eggs stronger" with a clear sentence grounded in the reference. Add an explanation of why thinner shells matter.	DDT contributed to thinner eggshells that could break before chicks hatched. Naming DDT and explaining the effect replaces the unclear pronoun and the inaccurate recovery mechanism.
4	Revise the final sentence so it accurately explains recovery without promising that one action solves everything.	Restrictions on DDT and recovery efforts such as reintroduction helped peregrines recover; providing a nesting place alone does not explain that recovery.

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Peregrine falcons nest on high cliffs and also use tall structures such as buildings and bridges. According to the National Park Service, their hunting dives may exceed 200 miles per hour. That speed describes a stoop, not constant flight throughout the day. They hunt birds, including pigeons, rather than a single kind of prey. Their recovery also required more than suitable buildings. DDT contributed to thinner eggshells, which could break before young hatched. Restrictions on DDT and recovery efforts such as reintroduction helped populations recover. A nesting place can be useful, but it does not by itself explain the return of a population affected by harmful chemicals.

Clarity: I replaced the vague “It” with DDT and named the effect on eggshells. Accuracy: I changed “all day” to a hunting dive and removed the exclusive pigeon diet. Elaboration: I explained that thinner shells could break before young hatched, connecting the chemical’s effect to population decline.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

The revised model has 107 words; the decision notes are separate. Score substantive revision of the supplied draft, not unrelated new animal writing. Require all three categories with examples and a coherent accurate paragraph. Accept different organization and wording. The flawed paragraph contains deliberate errors and must not be treated as a fact source. NPS sources support the reference notes; no independent fact gathering or direct quotation is required. Do not award full credit for merely fixing spelling or adding adjectives.