# Falcons on High

Use text features and text structures to organize meaning.

**ELA.4.R.2.1** "Explain how text features contribute to the meaning and identify the text structures of problem/solution, sequence, and description in texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline each section heading. Circle words that signal a problem, a solution, or order, then number the five events in the last section to show how the text is organized.

### City Falcons

#### 1 High Homes

Peregrine falcons sometimes nest on tall city buildings. A ledge can feel like a cliff, which is their usual home. The birds have blue-gray backs, barred bellies, and dark marks below their eyes. Their pointed wings help them dive quickly after smaller birds. From a high perch, a falcon can watch busy streets and the sky.

#### 2 Protecting the Nest

City falcons faced a problem when people repaired building ledges during nesting season. Workers could accidentally disturb eggs or chicks. To help, wildlife groups place wooden nest boxes on safe roofs before breeding begins. The boxes hold small stones instead of soft grass, so eggs do not roll. This solution gives the birds a protected place to raise young.

#### 3 From Egg to Flight

Falcon families follow a sequence each spring. First, the female usually lays two to four eggs. Next, both parents keep the eggs warm for about a month. Then, fluffy chicks hatch and need food from both adults. After about six weeks, the young birds practice flapping and hopping. Finally, they make short first flights from the nest area.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the heading "High Homes" help you understand the first section?

2. What text structure is used in the first section? Give two details that support your answer.

3. What problem and solution are explained in the section "Protecting the Nest"?

4. How do the order words in "From Egg to Flight" contribute to the meaning of that section?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three- or four-sentence informational section about an animal or a natural event. Add a heading and use either description, problem and solution, or sequence to organize your ideas.

ANSWER KEY

# Falcons on High

GRADE 4 · ELA.4.R.2.1

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each section heading. Circle words that signal a problem, a solution, or order, then number the five events in the last section to show how the text is organized. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How does the heading "High Homes" help you understand the first section? | **It tells that the section will explain where city falcons live and nest.** |
| 2 | What text structure is used in the first section? Give two details that support your answer. | **Description. It describes the falcons' blue-gray backs, barred bellies, dark eye marks, pointed wings, and high perches.** |
| 3 | What problem and solution are explained in the section "Protecting the Nest"? | **Repairs to building ledges could disturb eggs or chicks. Wildlife groups place wooden nest boxes on safe roofs.** |
| 4 | How do the order words in "From Egg to Flight" contribute to the meaning of that section? | **Words such as First, Next, Then, After, and Finally show the order of events from laying eggs to first flights.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

**How Maple Seeds Spin**

First, a maple tree grows winged seeds called samaras. Next, wind catches their paper-thin wings and carries them away. Finally, a seed that lands in soil may grow into a new tree.

Accept answers that correctly connect headings or order words to how the information is organized. For the writing task, accept any accurate topic with a clear heading and one consistent text structure.