Falcons Above the City

Read at the pace your purpose requires.

6.3 "Developing and sustaining foundational language skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking--fluency. The student reads grade-level text with fluency and comprehension..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two sentences you would reread slowly to explain either how peregrines hunt or why their population recovered. Circle one number or date you could scan to find quickly. Now actually scan to find the speed in paragraph 2. Then reread the first three sentences of paragraph 3 at a careful pace, silently or aloud, to understand the recovery sequence.

Falcons Above the City

1 Along many cliffs and city skylines, peregrine falcons hunt from high perches. These compact birds have long, pointed wings and dark markings below their eyes. A tall building can resemble the cliff ledges where peregrines naturally nest. From a perch, a falcon watches for pigeons, shorebirds, or other prey flying nearby. Instead of building a leafy nest, it usually lays eggs in a shallow scrape, a small hollow in gravel, soil, or other loose material. Adult peregrines protect the nesting area from intruders.

2 When a peregrine spots prey, it may begin a steep hunting dive called a stoop. During this dive, the bird folds back its wings, which reduces air resistance. Peregrines can reach speeds of more than 200 miles per hour, making them among the fastest animals in the world. A falcon uses its sharp vision to follow moving prey, then strikes or grabs it. Hunting requires energy, so a peregrine may wait patiently on a perch before choosing the right moment to fly.

3 People once worried that peregrines might disappear from much of North America. The pesticide DDT caused eggshells to become thin, so many eggs broke before chicks hatched. After DDT was banned for most uses in the United States in 1972, populations slowly recovered with protection and breeding programs. Today, people can help nesting falcons by keeping a respectful distance from nest sites and following local wildlife rules. A report about a nesting pair may include dates, locations, and the number of chicks observed.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. If your purpose is to find the fastest speed mentioned, what should you scan for, and what is the speed?

2. If you need to explain how a stoop helps a falcon hunt, which sentence from paragraph 2 should you reread slowly?

3. You are reading aloud to teach why peregrine populations recovered. Which paragraph should you read most carefully, and what two linked events must be clear to listeners?

4. A wildlife volunteer wants to find where a report may list chick totals. Which sentence should the volunteer scan, and what word signals that a total will appear?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Pretend you are preparing a 20-second safety announcement for visitors near a peregrine nest. In exactly three sentences, name two details you would read slowly for accuracy, name one detail you would scan to locate quickly, and explain why this pace fits your announcement. Then complete the two reading actions in Part 1. After your three sentences, record the speed you found and explain how banning DDT and protection/breeding programs relate to recovery. Tell a teacher or partner how you changed your pace and check your explanation against paragraph 3. No timer is needed.

ANSWER KEY **Falcons Above the City** **GRADE 6 · TEKS 6.3**

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two sentences you would reread slowly to explain either how peregrines hunt or why their population recovered. Circle one number or date you could scan to find quickly. Now actually scan to find the speed in paragraph 2. Then reread the first three sentences of paragraph 3 at a careful pace, silently or aloud, to understand the recovery sequence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	If your purpose is to find the fastest speed mentioned, what should you scan for, and what is the speed?	**Scan for the number in paragraph 2. The speed is more than 200 miles per hour.**
2	If you need to explain how a stoop helps a falcon hunt, which sentence from paragraph 2 should you reread slowly?	**"During this dive, the bird folds back its wings, which reduces air resistance."**
3	You are reading aloud to teach why peregrine populations recovered. Which paragraph should you read most carefully, and what two linked events must be clear to listeners?	**Paragraph 3. DDT was banned for most uses in the United States in 1972, and peregrine populations slowly recovered with protection and breeding programs.**
4	A wildlife volunteer wants to find where a report may list chick totals. Which sentence should the volunteer scan, and what word signals that a total will appear?	**Scan the last sentence of paragraph 3. The signal word is "number."**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would read slowly to make sure I explain that adult peregrines protect their nesting area and that visitors should keep a respectful distance from nest sites. I would scan for the local wildlife rules because those rules may guide visitors. This pace helps me give accurate safety information clearly.

Completed reading record: I scanned and found more than 200 miles per hour. I reread slowly: after DDT was banned for most U.S. uses in 1972, populations recovered with protection and breeding programs. I used quick searching for the number and careful rereading for the linked events, then checked my explanation with paragraph 3.

Accept any two accurately selected sentences that support an explanation of hunting or population recovery. For the circled mark, accept either 200 or 1972, as long as the student explains that the detail can be found quickly by scanning. Observe or discuss the completed contrasting reading actions and check the found speed and accurate recovery explanation. Assess the record separately from the three-sentence planning response. Supported silent or oral reading is accepted; no timer or public announcement is required.