

Falcon Comeback Clues

Use supporting details to identify key ideas.

5.6.G "evaluate details read to determine key ideas;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one sentence in each paragraph that states an important idea. Circle two details in each paragraph that explain or support that idea.

The Peregrine Falcon Returns

- ① By the 1960s, peregrine falcons had nearly disappeared from many parts of the United States. A pesticide called DDT built up in the birds' bodies after they ate smaller birds. The chemical caused many females to lay eggs with thin shells. During nesting, the shells often broke, so few chicks survived. Scientists and bird watchers began studying the problem.
- ② In 1972, the United States banned DDT. This reduced a major danger to peregrines, but the birds still needed help. Wildlife groups raised chicks in protected places and released them where falcons had vanished. Other people built nest boxes on tall buildings and bridges. These high spots can resemble the cliffs peregrines use in the wild, and they provide safer places for nests.
- ③ Today, peregrine falcons nest in many cities and natural areas. People sometimes watch their nests through cameras, which helps scientists learn when eggs hatch and chicks leave the nest. The recovery was not caused by one action alone. Banning DDT removed a harmful chemical, while careful protection and new nesting sites helped more young falcons survive.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What key idea does paragraph 1 explain about why peregrine falcons nearly disappeared?

2 Which detail in paragraph 2 shows why nest boxes can work for peregrine falcons?

3 Why does the author say that banning DDT was not enough by itself? Use one detail from paragraph 2.

4 What is the key idea of paragraph 3?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose paragraph 2 or paragraph 3. Write its key idea in your own words, name three details that support it, and explain how the details connect to the key idea.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one sentence in each paragraph that states an important idea. Circle two details in each paragraph that explain or support that idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What key idea does paragraph 1 explain about why peregrine falcons nearly disappeared?	DDT caused peregrines to lay thin-shelled eggs that often broke, so few chicks survived.
2	Which detail in paragraph 2 shows why nest boxes can work for peregrine falcons?	The high nest boxes resemble the cliffs peregrines use in the wild.
3	Why does the author say that banning DDT was not enough by itself? Use one detail from paragraph 2.	The birds still needed help, such as chicks being raised and released or nest boxes being built.
4	What is the key idea of paragraph 3?	Peregrine falcons recovered because several actions, including banning DDT, protecting birds, and providing nesting sites, worked together.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Paragraph 2 key idea: People used several ways to help peregrine falcons return. The United States banned DDT in 1972. Wildlife groups raised and released chicks. People also built nest boxes on buildings and bridges. Together, these details show that people reduced dangers and gave peregrines safer chances to survive.

Accept key ideas stated in the student's own words when they match the paragraph's main point. For the open task, accept three accurate supporting details and a reasonable explanation of how they support the chosen key idea.