

Clues Above Town

Use details to make supported conclusions about peregrine falcons.

6.5.F “make inferences and use evidence to support understanding;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline at least six details that help you make a conclusion the passage does not state directly. In the margin, write an I beside your two strongest clues, because these details will support your inferences.

Falcons at the Courthouse

- ① Each spring, a pair of peregrine falcons returns to a ledge high on the Riverton courthouse. From the sidewalk, people may notice one bird sitting low beside a shallow scrape in the gravel while the other circles above nearby buildings. The ledge is far above traffic and has a roof that blocks much of the rain. Peregrines do not build large twig nests. Instead, they often lay eggs in small hollows called scrapes, including scrapes on cliffs or tall structures.
- ② By early May, the adults begin carrying pigeons or small birds to the ledge several times a day. One adult usually arrives with food, then disappears behind the stone edge. The other may remain on a nearby antenna, calling sharply when crows fly close. Volunteers watching from across the street record these actions but do not climb to the ledge. They know that frequent food deliveries and defensive calls can reveal changes at a nest without disturbing the birds.
- ③ In June, people sometimes see a brown-streaked young falcon standing on the courthouse roof. It flaps hard, makes short flights to lower ledges, and calls until an adult arrives with food. On windy afternoons, the young bird may launch from the roof, circle unevenly, and land again. Meanwhile, an adult often flies smoothly across the same space. The tall buildings create open routes above streets, and the adults can spot birds in the air from their high perches.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why can you infer that the courthouse ledge is a useful nesting place for the falcons? Use two details from paragraph 1.

2 What can you infer about the activity at the nest by early May? Use two details from paragraph 2.

3 What can you infer that the volunteers value most? Use evidence from paragraph 2.

4 What can you infer about the young falcon's ability to fly and find food? Use two details from paragraph 3.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences explaining how the adult falcons and the young falcon use different parts of the courthouse area. Make one inference, include two details from the passage, and explain how the details support your inference.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline at least six details that help you make a conclusion the passage does not state directly. In the margin, write an I beside your two strongest clues, because these details will support your inferences. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why can you infer that the courthouse ledge is a useful nesting place for the falcons? Use two details from paragraph 1.	The ledge is likely a useful nest site because it is high above traffic and its roof blocks much of the rain. Its gravel also allows the falcons to make a scrape like the ones they use on cliffs.
2	What can you infer about the activity at the nest by early May? Use two details from paragraph 2.	The nest is active and the adults are caring for eggs or young. One adult brings food to the ledge several times a day, while the other calls when crows come close.
3	What can you infer that the volunteers value most? Use evidence from paragraph 2.	The volunteers value protecting the falcons from disturbance. They watch and record from across the street instead of climbing to the ledge.
4	What can you infer about the young falcon's ability to fly and find food? Use two details from paragraph 3.	The young falcon is still learning and depends on adults for food. It makes short, uneven flights and calls until an adult brings food, unlike the adult that flies smoothly.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The adults seem to use the highest places mainly for watching and protecting the nest, while the young falcon uses lower spaces for early flight practice. One adult watches from an antenna and calls when crows come close. The young falcon makes short flights to lower ledges, but an adult brings it food.

Accept reasonable inferences that are supported by accurate passage details, even if students use different wording. For the open task, check for exactly three sentences, one supported inference, two relevant details, and an explanation of the connection.