Falcon Comeback Notes

Annotate a conservation source for problem, response, and outcome.

6.6.E "interact with sources in meaningful ways such as notetaking, annotating, freewriting, or illustrating;"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, underline the problem, circle actions that helped, and number 1, 2, or 3 beside details that show the problem, the response, and the outcome. Use your marks to trace how the source explains recovery.

The Return of Peregrine Falcons

1 In the mid-1900s, peregrine falcons nearly disappeared from many parts of the United States. These fast birds eat other birds, so chemicals in contaminated prey built up in their bodies. One pesticide, DDT, caused many females to lay eggs with shells too thin to protect growing chicks. By 1970, peregrines were gone from the eastern United States, except for a few places. Scientists, bird watchers, and government agencies began studying the decline and planning ways to help.

2 In 1972, the United States banned DDT for most uses. Biologists also raised peregrine chicks in protected breeding centers. When the young birds were old enough to fly, workers released them from tall structures, including cliffs and city skyscrapers. The birds could hunt pigeons and other prey in these places. Researchers placed leg bands on some falcons and later checked nesting sites. Their notes showed which released birds survived, returned to breed, and raised chicks of their own.

3 Today, peregrine falcons nest on cliffs, bridges, and tall buildings across much of the country. In 1999, the species was removed from the U.S. federal endangered species list because its population had recovered. Recovery did not happen from one action alone. The DDT ban, captive breeding, releases, and careful tracking worked together over many years. Peregrines still face dangers, including collisions with buildings, loss of nesting places, and some harmful chemicals. Monitoring helps people notice new problems before populations fall again.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Use your underlining to write a 10 to 15 word margin note explaining why peregrine numbers fell.

2. Choose two circled actions. Write a note that explains how the two actions worked together to support recovery.

3. Look at your numbered details. Which paragraph contains the clearest outcome? Write the paragraph number and copy 6 to 10 words that prove your choice.

4. Write a margin question about monitoring. Then answer your question in 12 to 18 words using paragraph 3.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 45 to 55 word source note that connects the problem, two actions, and the result. Include one short quotation from the passage in quotation marks, then add a final question you still have about peregrine recovery.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 6 · TEKS 6.6.E

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

As you read, underline the problem, circle actions that helped, and number 1, 2, or 3 beside details that show the problem, the response, and the outcome. Use your marks to trace how the source explains recovery. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Use your underlining to write a 10 to 15 word margin note explaining why peregrine numbers fell.	**DDT built up in prey and made peregrine eggshells too thin.**
2	Choose two circled actions. Write a note that explains how the two actions worked together to support recovery.	**The DDT ban reduced a harmful pesticide, while breeding and releases added young falcons to the wild.**
3	Look at your numbered details. Which paragraph contains the clearest outcome? Write the paragraph number and copy 6 to 10 words that prove your choice.	**Paragraph 3: "species was removed from the U.S. federal endangered species list."**
4	Write a margin question about monitoring. Then answer your question in 12 to 18 words using paragraph 3.	**Why is monitoring important? Careful monitoring helps people notice new problems early, before falcon populations fall again.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

DDT made peregrine eggshells "too thin," helping explain the population decline. A DDT ban and breeding centers helped birds return, while leg bands let researchers track survival. The 1999 removal from the endangered list shows recovery. How do scientists measure whether today's threats are increasing?

Accept accurate annotations that identify the DDT problem, recovery actions, and population outcome, even if students mark different supporting details. For the open response, accept 45 to 55 words that synthesize the source, include a valid short quotation, and end with a relevant unanswered question.