

Flight Path Clues

Use title, sequence, and cause-and-effect clues to predict and check meaning.

8.5.C "make and correct or confirm predictions using text features, characteristics of genre, and structures;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the title and two details that help you predict the falcons' recovery, then number three recovery events in time order. Use your marks to make a prediction and check it as you read.

From Empty Cliffs to City Skies

- ① By the mid-1900s, peregrine falcons had nearly disappeared from much of the United States. A pesticide called DDT built up in the birds' food chain and caused many eggshells to become too thin. After DDT was restricted in 1972, scientists, zoos, and volunteers began a recovery effort. They raised young falcons in captivity and released them at carefully chosen sites. The plan depended on more than releasing birds. It also required safe nesting places and years of observation.
- ② In many cities, tall buildings provided a surprising substitute for cliffs, the falcons' usual nesting habitat. Biologists placed nest boxes on rooftops, bridges, and other high ledges. Adult falcons that survived learned to use these sites, and some later raised their own chicks there. As the urban population grew, people might expect the birds to avoid noisy streets. Instead, city falcons often found plentiful pigeons and other prey. Cameras near some nests allowed residents to watch without climbing onto the buildings or disturbing the birds.
- ③ Today, peregrine falcons nest in many parts of the country where they were once scarce. Their recovery does not mean every danger has vanished. Researchers still check nests, record the number of young birds, and test for harmful chemicals. The story shows a cause-and-effect pattern: reducing one major threat helped falcons reproduce, while protected nest sites supported their return. It also shows why an informational report may end with limits rather than a perfect ending. A population can improve, yet still need careful protection.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Before reading, the title suggests a change. What change could you predict, and which detail in paragraph 2 confirms it?

2 Paragraph 1 follows time order. After you read that DDT was restricted, what recovery step could you predict would come next? Confirm your prediction with words from the paragraph.

3 Paragraph 2 contrasts an expected outcome with an actual outcome. What might a reader predict from the noisy-streets detail, and how does the text correct that prediction?

4 Paragraph 3 ends with limits instead of a perfect ending. What prediction about the falcons' future is confirmed by this ending? Use two details from paragraph 3.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

A new informational article is titled "Bringing Back River Otters." Its opening explains that polluted water reduced their habitat, and its final paragraph describes water testing and protected stream banks. Write exactly two sentences that state a prediction from the title and confirm or correct it with one clue from each paragraph.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle the title and two details that help you predict the falcons' recovery, then number three recovery events in time order. Use your marks to make a prediction and check it as you read. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Before reading, the title suggests a change. What change could you predict, and which detail in paragraph 2 confirms it?	A reader could predict that falcons would begin living or nesting in cities. Paragraph 2 confirms this by explaining that tall buildings served as cliffs and that nest boxes were placed on rooftops, bridges, and ledges.
2	Paragraph 1 follows time order. After you read that DDT was restricted, what recovery step could you predict would come next? Confirm your prediction with words from the paragraph.	A reader could predict that people would help rebuild the falcon population. The paragraph confirms this by saying they “raised young falcons in captivity” and “released them at carefully chosen sites.”
3	Paragraph 2 contrasts an expected outcome with an actual outcome. What might a reader predict from the noisy-streets detail, and how does the text correct that prediction?	A reader might predict that falcons would avoid cities because of the noise. The text corrects this by explaining that city falcons found plentiful pigeons and other prey.
4	Paragraph 3 ends with limits instead of a perfect ending. What prediction about the falcons' future is confirmed by this ending? Use two details from paragraph 3.	The ending confirms that falcons will still need protection and monitoring. Researchers check nests, record young birds, and test for harmful chemicals, and the passage says dangers have not vanished.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The title makes me predict that the article will explain a recovery effort that helps river otters return. The pollution problem at the beginning and the water testing and protected stream banks at the end confirm that prediction.

Accept predictions that logically use the title, time order, contrast, or cause-and-effect details and then confirm or revise the prediction with accurate text evidence. For the open task, require exactly two sentences, a reasonable prediction, and evidence from both described paragraphs.