City Sky Hunters

Track how details show change across an informational text.

4.DSR.B "Proficiently read and comprehend a variety of literary and informational texts that exhibit complexity at the lower range of the grades 4-5 band (See the Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis charts for determining complexity in the..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail in each paragraph that tells how a place or people affect peregrine falcons. Number your details 1, 2, and 3 in the order the passage presents them.

Peregrines Above the City

1. On a spring morning, a peregrine falcon may perch on a tall office building and watch the streets below. The bird is not looking for people. It is watching pigeons, starlings, and other small birds. Peregrines once nested mainly on cliffs near open water or fields. A city skyscraper can offer a similar high ledge, with a wide view and a sheltered place for eggs.

2. Yet city life also brought danger. In the mid-1900s, a pesticide called DDT moved through food chains. When peregrines ate contaminated birds, the chemical caused their eggshells to become thin. Many eggs broke before chicks could hatch. By 1970, peregrine falcons had nearly disappeared from much of the eastern United States. Scientists, governments, and citizens worked to ban DDT and protect nesting sites.

3. Today, people in several cities place nest boxes on tall buildings, bridges, and towers. A nest box has gravel or another safe surface so eggs will not roll away. Some sites have cameras that let viewers watch without climbing near the nest. These efforts do not make a wild falcon tame. Instead, they give the birds a safer place to raise young while people learn why the species needs protection.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the central idea of the passage? Use details from more than one paragraph.

2. Why does the author say that a skyscraper can be similar to a cliff for a peregrine falcon?

3. Based on paragraph 2, what does contaminated mean?

4. How does paragraph 2 connect to paragraph 3?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence summary of the passage that explains the changes for peregrine falcons over time. Use one detail from each paragraph, and do not copy sentences from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

City Sky Hunters

GRADE 4 · 4.DSR.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail in each paragraph that tells how a place or people affect peregrine falcons. Number your details 1, 2, and 3 in the order the passage presents them. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the central idea of the passage? Use details from more than one paragraph.	**Peregrine falcons can live in cities, but DDT caused their decline, and protection efforts now help them raise young.**
2	Why does the author say that a skyscraper can be similar to a cliff for a peregrine falcon?	**Like a cliff, a skyscraper can provide a high ledge, a wide view, and a sheltered place for eggs.**
3	Based on paragraph 2, what does contaminated mean?	**Containing DDT or another harmful chemical.**
4	How does paragraph 2 connect to paragraph 3?	**Paragraph 2 explains the danger that made peregrines rare, and paragraph 3 explains actions people take to help the birds recover.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Peregrine falcons can use high city buildings as nesting places because the buildings are like cliffs. DDT made their eggshells weak, so the birds became rare in much of the eastern United States. Now nest boxes and cameras help peregrines raise chicks with less disturbance.

Accept accurate paraphrases supported by the text. In the summary, look for three sentences that include a detail from each paragraph and explain the change from city habitat, to danger, to protection.