City Sky Hunters

Track the main ideas and details in an informational text.

6.RI.1.A "Summarize texts, including their main idea(s) and how they are developed with specific details."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one sentence or phrase in each paragraph that states an important idea. Number two details in each paragraph that develop that idea, so you can see how the details build a summary.

Peregrines Above the Streets

1. Each spring, a pair of peregrine falcons may raise chicks on a city skyscraper instead of a cliff. Peregrines once nested mostly on rocky ledges near open land, where they could spot birds in flight. Tall buildings now provide high, narrow ledges that resemble cliffs. From these sites, falcons can watch pigeons, starlings, and other prey moving between streets and rooftops. The city can seem crowded to people, but its height and steady supply of birds create useful hunting territory for peregrines.

2. City peregrines were not always common. In the mid-1900s, the pesticide DDT built up in the bodies of birds that peregrines ate. This chemical caused many female falcons to lay eggs with thin shells, which often broke during incubation. Peregrine numbers fell sharply in North America. After DDT was banned in the United States in 1972, conservation groups bred peregrines in captivity and released them. These efforts helped populations recover, including the birds that later settled in cities.

3. Today, biologists and volunteers watch many city nests with cameras or from nearby buildings. Their observations can show when adults arrive, how many eggs hatch, and whether young birds survive their first flights. Some groups place identification bands on nestlings so scientists can learn where the birds travel after leaving the nest. Nest sites can also lead to problems, such as a young falcon landing near traffic. Wildlife workers sometimes rescue these birds and return them to safe places. By tracking nests, people can protect peregrines while learning how wildlife uses cities.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the central idea of the whole passage? Answer in one sentence.

2. Summarize the first paragraph in 20 to 30 words. Include its important idea and at least one supporting detail.

3. How does the middle paragraph develop its main idea about peregrine populations? Give two specific details.

4. Summarize the final paragraph in 25 to 35 words. Include the important idea and details about how people help peregrines.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 55 to 65 word summary of the entire passage. State the central idea and explain how details from all three paragraphs develop it. Do not use quotations.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 6 · 6.RI.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one sentence or phrase in each paragraph that states an important idea. Number two details in each paragraph that develop that idea, so you can see how the details build a summary. 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 whole passage? Answer in one sentence.	**Peregrine falcons can thrive in cities because urban conditions support nesting and hunting, while conservation and monitoring help protect them.**
2	Summarize the first paragraph in 20 to 30 words. Include its important idea and at least one supporting detail.	**City skyscrapers resemble cliffs, and plentiful birds give peregrine falcons elevated places to watch and hunt prey in crowded urban areas.**
3	How does the middle paragraph develop its main idea about peregrine populations? Give two specific details.	**It explains that DDT thinned eggshells and that the 1972 ban, captive breeding, and releases helped peregrine populations recover.**
4	Summarize the final paragraph in 25 to 35 words. Include the important idea and details about how people help peregrines.	**Biologists and volunteers monitor urban nests to collect information about falcons. They use bands and rescues to study birds and reduce dangers such as traffic.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Peregrine falcons have become successful city wildlife because skyscrapers offer cliff-like nesting sites and urban birds provide prey. Their populations recovered after DDT was banned and conservationists bred and released birds. Today, monitoring nests, banding young falcons, and rescuing birds near traffic help scientists protect peregrines and understand how they live in cities across changing urban environments.

Accept accurate paraphrases that identify peregrines' success in cities and connect details about habitat, recovery, and monitoring. For summaries, require the stated word range, a central or paragraph-level main idea, and relevant supporting details.