**Learning Objective**

We are learning to precis large passages

**Challenge 1**

**Underline the key words in each sentence and then rewrite them in as few words as possible.**

Grouse are heavily built, chicken-like birds which live predominantly on the plains of western America. They range in length from 31cm to 95cm and in weight from 300g to 6.5kg. The males are bigger than then females.

Sage grouse do not have a muscular gizzard and so cannot grind and digest seeds. Instead, they must eat soft food which is easy to digest. Apart from sagebrush, the adult diet consists largely of herbaceous leaves.

During mating season, male sage grouses gather on a lek, which is a special open display area. While they are in the lek, the males strut around and display their eye-catching fans of tail feathers and their glamorous ruffs of chest plumage. They also make a unique mating call created by inflating their brightly-coloured air sacs.

**Challenge 2**

**Rewrite this passage in your own words to create a precis.**

During mating season, the female builds a nest. Most birds nest in the vicinity of the display area, although some will fly distances of up to 20 miles to find more favourable nesting sites. It is important that the nest has adequate cover so the birds build their nests beneath bushes to hide them from predators. The female will lay between six and nine eggs, which will hatch in approximately three weeks. Chicks can fly by two weeks of age, although their movements are limited until they are about three weeks old. They can fly for longer periods by the time they are six weeks old and are generally independent after three months.

**Challenge 3**

**Write a precis of this longer passage. You might find it helpful to use bullet points to list the key points and then rewrite the passage in your own words using your list.**

**There are 154 words in this passage. Can you write a precis using approximately 50 words?**

Sage grouse have a number of predators which, if they locate the nest during mating season, can reduce sage grouse populations. In order to protect their chicks, sage grouse build their nests in depressions in the ground beneath the cover of sagebrush bushes.

Predator species include coyote, bob cats and American badgers, all of which prey on adult and young sage grouse. A number of bird species are also predators of the sage grouse. These include falcons, hawks and eagles. Magpies, crows and ravens prey on the nests of sage grouse in order to eat the eggs or newly hatched chicks.

Residential building and energy development are also having an impact on the number of sage grouse in America. One hundred years ago, there were 16 million sage grouse. Now, that number is believed to be between 200,000 and 500,000. Another reason for the declining number of sage grouse is the loss of habitat.