Words at Work

Use clues in a beaver pond text to understand new words.

3.LF.16 "Use knowledge of grade-level academic and domain-specific vocabulary to gain meaning from text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline current, lodge, waterproof, and sediment in the passage, then circle nearby words that help you figure out each meaning.

A Beaver Changes a Stream

1. At the edge of a forest, a beaver drags branches into a stream. The current pushes against the branches and tries to carry them away. The beaver presses the branches into a wall and packs mud into the gaps. As the wall grows, the water behind it rises and forms a pond. Slower water makes it easier for the beaver to swim with a branch.

2. In the pond, the beaver builds a lodge from sticks and mud. Inside this round home is a dry space above the water. The beaver can swim through an underwater entrance, then climb up into the dry space. A beaver's outer fur has oil that helps it repel water. When water runs off instead of soaking in, the fur acts like a waterproof coat. Thick fur underneath helps keep the beaver warm.

3. A beaver dam changes more than the water level. When the water slows down, sediment settles on the pond floor. These tiny pieces of soil and sand once floated along in the fast stream. The pond can become a habitat for frogs, insects, and fish, which find food and shelter there. One busy beaver can change where many other animals live.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does current mean in the first paragraph? Which words help you tell?

2. What is a lodge? Which details help you understand the word?

3. What does waterproof mean? Which words in the passage give you a clue?

4. What is sediment? Which sentence helps you figure it out?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose an animal that is not named in the passage. Write two sentences about how it finds shelter, and include clues that show what shelter means.

ANSWER KEY

Words at Work

GRADE 3 · 3.LF.16

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline current, lodge, waterproof, and sediment in the passage, then circle nearby words that help you figure out each meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does current mean in the first paragraph? Which words help you tell?	**Current means moving water. It pushes against the branches and tries to carry them away.**
2	What is a lodge? Which details help you understand the word?	**A lodge is a beaver's home. It has an underwater entrance and a dry space inside.**
3	What does waterproof mean? Which words in the passage give you a clue?	**Waterproof means keeping water from soaking in. The passage says water runs off the fur.**
4	What is sediment? Which sentence helps you figure it out?	**Sediment is tiny pieces of soil and sand. The next sentence describes them floating in the stream.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A rabbit found shelter under a thick bush during the rain. The leaves above it kept the rabbit dry and safe.

Accept meanings in the student's own words when the cited clue supports the meaning. For Your Turn, look for a different animal and context clues showing that shelter provides protection.