Beaver Pond Clues

Use what you know and what you wonder to guide your reading.

3.LF.20 "Establish a purpose before reading literary and informational texts to enhance comprehension, including identifying background knowledge and generating questions about the topic or characters."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Before reading, write in the margin one thing you know about streams and one question about changes a beaver dam might cause; as you read, underline a detail that helps answer your question.

A Dam Changes a Stream

1. At the edge of a forest, a small stream runs between rocks. One morning, the water moves slowly beside a pile of sticks. Beavers have placed branches across the stream and packed gaps with mud. This wall is called a dam. Water gathers behind it, making a deeper pond. A beaver can swim through this water to reach its home.

2. Why would a beaver change a stream? Beavers are strong swimmers, but they move more slowly on land. Deep water helps them travel away from animals that might hunt them. Their home, called a lodge, may stand in the pond. Its entrance is underwater. A beaver dives below the surface and swims inside, where it can rest and stay dry.

3. The new pond changes the area for other living things, too. Frogs may lay eggs in its still water. Ducks can stop there to find food. Some trees near the pond may die when their roots stay under water for too long. A dam can help some plants and animals while making life harder for others. One builder can change a whole neighborhood.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. You know that a dam holds back water. What new fact about how beavers build a dam can you find in paragraph 1?

2. Before reading paragraph 2, what question about a beaver's home could you ask that the paragraph answers?

3. If you read to find out why deep water helps a beaver, what answer would you mark in paragraph 2?

4. If you read paragraph 3 to find out whether the pond helps every living thing, which two details would you mark?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are about to read a book about how a sunflower grows from a seed. Write three sentences: one thing you already know about seeds, one question you would ask before reading, and what you would look for while you read.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 3 · 3.LF.20

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Before reading, write in the margin one thing you know about streams and one question about changes a beaver dam might cause; as you read, underline a detail that helps answer your question. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	You know that a dam holds back water. What new fact about how beavers build a dam can you find in paragraph 1?	**Beavers place branches across a stream and pack gaps with mud.**
2	Before reading paragraph 2, what question about a beaver's home could you ask that the paragraph answers?	**How does a beaver enter its lodge?**
3	If you read to find out why deep water helps a beaver, what answer would you mark in paragraph 2?	**Deep water helps beavers travel away from animals that might hunt them.**
4	If you read paragraph 3 to find out whether the pond helps every living thing, which two details would you mark?	**Frogs may lay eggs in the pond, but some nearby trees may die when their roots stay under water too long.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I know that seeds need water to grow. Will the sunflower seed sprout before leaves appear? While I read, I will look for the order in which roots, stems, and leaves grow.

For question 2, accept any question about the lodge that paragraph 2 answers. For Part 1, accept a relevant underlined detail even if a student's question is not fully answered by the passage.