Beaver Word Power

Notice how exact words make an explanation clear.

3.LF.40.b "Use specific vocabulary to explain or inform on a topic."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four words or phrases that name a beaver's body parts or the things it builds. Circle one detail that helps explain each one.

A Beaver at Work

1. A beaver has tools built into its body. Its strong front teeth, called incisors, cut through wood. The teeth keep growing, so chewing helps wear them down. A beaver carries branches in its mouth and uses its front paws to hold them. Its webbed back feet help it swim through water. Thick fur helps keep its body warm.

2. A beaver can change a stream by building a dam. It piles branches, stones, and mud across the flowing water. The dam slows the stream, and water gathers behind it to form a pond. The beaver may repair holes when water pushes through. Fish and frogs can live in the pond, so the beaver's work affects other animals, too.

3. A beaver may build a lodge in the pond. This home is made from sticks and mud, with a dry space inside. The lodge often has an entrance below the water's surface. A beaver can swim through that entrance to reach its home. The pond also makes it harder for some land animals to reach the lodge. Beaver kits, or young beavers, stay inside with adults.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What exact word names a beaver's front cutting teeth? Why is it more helpful than saying only "teeth"?

2. What phrase names the feet that help a beaver swim? Why is it more helpful than saying only "feet"?

3. Which word names the structure a beaver builds across a stream? What does it do to the water?

4. Which word names the beaver's home? Give one passage detail that helps explain what this word means.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence sign for a pond visitor. Explain how a beaver makes a pond and how the pond helps beavers and another animal. Use the words dam, pond, and lodge.

ANSWER KEY

Beaver Word Power

GRADE 3 · 3.LF.40.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline four words or phrases that name a beaver's body parts or the things it builds. Circle one detail that helps explain each one. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What exact word names a beaver's front cutting teeth? Why is it more helpful than saying only "teeth"?	**Incisors. The word tells which teeth cut wood.**
2	What phrase names the feet that help a beaver swim? Why is it more helpful than saying only "feet"?	**Webbed back feet. The phrase identifies which feet help the beaver swim.**
3	Which word names the structure a beaver builds across a stream? What does it do to the water?	**A dam slows the stream, causing water to gather behind it.**
4	Which word names the beaver's home? Give one passage detail that helps explain what this word means.	**A lodge is the beaver's home. It has a dry space inside.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A beaver builds a dam that slows a stream and makes a pond. The pond helps protect the beaver's lodge from some land animals. Fish can live in the pond, too.

Accept accurate details stated in the passage. For the sign, look for all three required words and an explanation of how the pond helps both beavers and another animal.