A Pond Appears

Find the main idea and the details that support it.

4.LF.21 "Explain how relevant details support the implied or explicit main idea of a text. a. Determine the central idea or theme of a text. b. Explain the difference between implied and explicit details. c..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that states the main idea. Circle two details that support it, and write I beside a clue that helps you figure out something the text does not say directly.

The Beaver's Busy Pond

1. At the edge of a forest, a narrow stream rushes over stones. One morning, a beaver drags branches into the water. It wedges them between rocks and packs mud around them. Over many trips, the pile grows into a dam. The dam slows the stream, and water begins to spread behind it. Soon, a shallow pond covers part of the bank.

2. The new pond changes the neighborhood. Frogs lay eggs in its still water, where the eggs are less likely to wash away. Ducks paddle across the surface and search for food. Near the shore, willow shoots grow in wet soil. A beaver cuts some of these shoots for food and building. The pond is busy even when the beaver is out of sight.

3. By slowing a stream, beavers make homes for many living things. Water can soak into nearby soil instead of racing downstream. On hot days, the pond holds water for animals to drink. Even an old dam can leave behind a wet place where plants grow. A beaver does not plan a home for frogs or ducks, but its work makes space for them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which sentence states the main idea? Copy it.

2. How do the details about willow shoots support the main idea?

3. The text says frog eggs are less likely to wash away. What can you figure out about young frogs from that clue? Explain which idea is stated and which is inferred.

4. Summarize two ways the pond helps living things. Use one detail from paragraph 2 and one from paragraph 3.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine visiting a different beaver pond. Write three sentences: describe one detail you might notice that is not in the passage, tell what you infer from it, and explain how it supports the passage's main idea.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that states the main idea. Circle two details that support it, and write I beside a clue that helps you figure out something the text does not say directly. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sentence states the main idea? Copy it.	**By slowing a stream, beavers make homes for many living things.**
2	How do the details about willow shoots support the main idea?	**Willow shoots grow in the wet soil near the pond, and the beaver uses them for food and building. The changed area supports both plants and animals.**
3	The text says frog eggs are less likely to wash away. What can you figure out about young frogs from that clue? Explain which idea is stated and which is inferred.	**The text states that the eggs are less likely to wash away. We can infer that more young frogs may have a chance to grow in the pond.**
4	Summarize two ways the pond helps living things. Use one detail from paragraph 2 and one from paragraph 3.	**In paragraph 2, frogs lay eggs in the pond's still water. In paragraph 3, the pond holds water for animals to drink.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I see a dragonfly resting on a cattail beside the pond. I infer that the pond gives insects a place to live. This supports the idea that beavers help make homes for many living things.

Accept other accurate supporting details and reasonable inferences tied to a stated clue. For Your Turn, accept a plausible new observation with an inference and a clear connection to the main idea.