

Clues by the Pond

Use nearby words to figure out word meanings.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.2.4 "Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 2 topic or subject area."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the words gnaw, sturdy, and calm. Circle the nearby words that help you figure out what each word means.

Beavers at Work

- ① Beavers are busy animals that live near ponds and streams. They use their strong teeth to gnaw, or chew, tree trunks. Then they carry branches through the water to build homes called lodges.
- ② A beaver's lodge is sturdy, which means strong and not easy to break. The lodge has an underwater door. This hidden entrance helps keep the beaver safe from animals that want to catch it.
- ③ Beavers also build dams, or walls of sticks and mud, across small streams. A dam slows the water and makes a deeper pond. In this calm water, beavers can swim, find food, and reach their lodge.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What does gnaw mean in the first paragraph?

2 What does sturdy mean in the second paragraph?

3 What does the phrase hidden entrance mean?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write two sentences about an animal home. Use one word that may be new to a reader, and give a clue that tells what the word means.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the words gnaw, sturdy, and calm. Circle the nearby words that help you figure out what each word means. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does gnaw mean in the first paragraph?	to chew
2	What does sturdy mean in the second paragraph?	strong and not easy to break
3	What does the phrase hidden entrance mean?	an entrance that is not easy to see

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A bird builds its nest in a sheltered spot under thick leaves. Sheltered means protected from wind and rain.

Accept answers that use passage clues to explain the target words or phrases. For Your Turn, accept any accurate two-sentence response with a new word and a clear meaning clue.