Beaver Builder Clues

Find details that reveal an author's purpose.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.2.6 "Identify the main purpose of a text, including what the author wants to answer, explain, or describe."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail in each paragraph that tells what beavers do with a lodge. Circle details that tell how a lodge is made, then use your marks to think about why the author wrote this text.

How Beavers Make a Lodge

1. Beavers build homes called lodges beside ponds or streams. A lodge has a dry room inside, above the water. The animals use their strong teeth to cut small trees and branches for building.

2. First, a beaver piles branches and mud near the shore. Then it adds more sticks, making walls that hold together. An underwater entrance helps the beaver slip into its home while staying safer from many land animals.

3. Beavers keep fixing their lodges as weather changes. In cold places, a pond may freeze on top. The beaver can still swim below the ice to reach the lodge entrance and its stored food.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the author's main purpose for writing this text?

2. Which word best names the author's purpose: answer, explain, or describe?

3. Write two details that show the author wants to explain, not just tell a story.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two fact sentences that explain how an animal makes or uses a home. Then write a third sentence that names your purpose using answer, explain, or describe.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 2 · RI.2.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail in each paragraph that tells what beavers do with a lodge. Circle details that tell how a lodge is made, then use your marks to think about why the author wrote this text. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the author's main purpose for writing this text?	**To explain how beavers build and use lodges.**
2	Which word best names the author's purpose: answer, explain, or describe?	**Explain.**
3	Write two details that show the author wants to explain, not just tell a story.	**Beavers pile branches and mud near the shore. An underwater entrance helps a beaver enter its home more safely.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A bird uses grass, twigs, and mud to build a nest. The nest holds eggs and helps keep chicks together. My purpose is to explain how a bird uses a nest.

Accept answers that identify the purpose as explaining how beavers build and use lodges. For Question 3, accept any two accurate passage details that support this purpose.