River Engineers

Read an informational science text and track its central ideas and details.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.10 "By the end of the year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, at the high end of the grades 2-3 text complexity band independently and proficiently."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one sentence in each paragraph that tells what the paragraph is mostly about. Number the details that support each underlined sentence so you can see how the paragraphs explain beavers' work.

How Beavers Change a Stream

1. Beavers are often called nature's engineers because they change the places where they live. Using their large front teeth, they cut branches and carry mud, stones, and sticks to a stream. These materials can form a dam, a wall that slows the moving water. Behind the dam, water spreads out and creates a pond nearby.

2. The new pond can help many living things. Fish may find calmer water, and frogs can lay eggs near its edges. Water birds may rest or search for food there. The pond also holds water after rain, so less water may rush downstream at once. However, a dam can flood land and change the habitat of plants that need dry ground.

3. Beavers also build lodges, where they rest and raise their young. A lodge may be made of branches and mud, often with an underwater entrance. This entrance can make it harder for some predators to get inside. In winter, beavers stay in the lodge and eat food they stored nearby. By building dams and lodges, beavers shape both their own homes and the wider habitat.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the central idea of the whole text?

2. How does paragraph 2 add to the information in paragraph 1?

3. What does the word "habitat" mean in paragraph 2? Use details from the paragraph to help you.

4. Why does the author include information about the lodge's underwater entrance?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence explanation of how beavers change a stream area. Use one accurate detail from each paragraph, and include the words dam, pond, and lodge.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one sentence in each paragraph that tells what the paragraph is mostly about. Number the details that support each underlined sentence so you can see how the paragraphs explain beavers' work. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the central idea of the whole text?	**Beavers build dams and lodges that make homes for themselves and change the surrounding habitat.**
2	How does paragraph 2 add to the information in paragraph 1?	**Paragraph 1 explains that a dam creates a pond. Paragraph 2 explains how that pond can help animals, hold rainwater, and flood dry land.**
3	What does the word "habitat" mean in paragraph 2? Use details from the paragraph to help you.	**Habitat means the place where a living thing lives. The paragraph explains that flooding can change the place where plants that need dry ground live.**
4	Why does the author include information about the lodge's underwater entrance?	**The author includes it to explain how a lodge can help protect beavers from some predators.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A beaver builds a dam from branches, mud, stones, and sticks, slowing a stream and creating a pond. The pond can give fish and frogs places to live, but it can also flood dry land. Beavers use lodges with underwater entrances for shelter, so their building changes both a home and the surrounding habitat.

Accept reasonable paraphrases that show understanding of the text's central idea, paragraph connections, and vocabulary in context. For the open response, check for exactly three sentences, the required words, and one accurate detail from each paragraph.