Builders of Change

Read an informational science text for central ideas and supporting details.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.10 "By the end of year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, in the grades 4-5 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one important sentence in each paragraph. Circle two science words and number three details that show changes caused by a beaver dam, then use your marks to explain the passage's main idea.

How Beaver Dams Change a Stream

1. Beavers are known for building dams across small streams. A dam is a wall of branches, mud, and stones that slows moving water. Behind the dam, water spreads into a pond. Beavers use the deeper pond as protection because it makes it harder for many land animals to reach the entrance of their lodge, or home.

2. The pond changes the nearby habitat. Water-loving plants may grow along its edge, and insects can live among the new stems. Fish, frogs, ducks, and turtles may use the pond for food or shelter. These animals can attract predators, such as herons or otters. In this way, one beaver dam can affect many living things in an area.

3. People sometimes see dams as a problem. A dam can flood a road, a field, or land near homes. Instead of removing every dam, wildlife workers may place a pipe through one. The pipe lets some water flow downstream while keeping enough pond water for the beavers. This solution can reduce flooding and protect the habitat that the dam created.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the main idea of the passage? Use details from at least two paragraphs in your answer.

2. Why is the pond behind a dam helpful to beavers?

3. Name two ways a beaver dam changes the habitat near a stream.

4. How can a pipe through a dam help both people and beavers?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence summary of the passage in your own words. State the main idea in the first sentence, then include one important detail from each paragraph.

ANSWER KEY

Builders of Change

GRADE 4 · RI.4.10

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one important sentence in each paragraph. Circle two science words and number three details that show changes caused by a beaver dam, then use your marks to explain the passage's main idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the main idea of the passage? Use details from at least two paragraphs in your answer.	**Beaver dams change streams into ponds, affecting beavers, other living things, and people. The ponds protect beavers and create habitat, but they can also cause flooding.**
2	Why is the pond behind a dam helpful to beavers?	**The deeper pond helps protect beavers because many land animals have a harder time reaching the entrance to the lodge.**
3	Name two ways a beaver dam changes the habitat near a stream.	**It creates a pond where water-loving plants and insects can grow or live, and it provides food or shelter for animals such as fish, frogs, ducks, and turtles.**
4	How can a pipe through a dam help both people and beavers?	**The pipe lets some water flow downstream to reduce flooding while keeping enough pond water for the beavers and their habitat.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Beaver dams reshape small streams and affect both wildlife and people. First, a dam holds back water to form a pond that helps protect beavers at their lodge. Next, the pond provides a place where plants and many animals can live or find food. Finally, workers can use a pipe to lower flooding while leaving the pond habitat in place.

Accept main ideas that connect the dam's effects on beavers, the habitat, and people. For the summary, accept accurate wording that includes a central idea and one relevant detail from each paragraph.