Beaver Detail Bridges

Notice how linking words join related facts in a model informational text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.2c "Use linking words and phrases (e.g., also, another, and, more, but) to connect ideas within categories of information."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each linking word or phrase that joins details in the same paragraph. Draw a line from each underlined word or phrase to the ideas it connects.

Busy Beavers

1. Beavers have body parts that help them work in water. Their wide, flat tails help them swim and balance on land. A beaver's tail also stores fat for winter. Webbed back feet push through the water, and strong front paws hold sticks. Another useful body part is its thick fur, which keeps the beaver warm and dry.

2. Beavers build lodges, or homes, near ponds and streams. They pile branches and mud into a dome shape. The entrance is underwater, but the living space is above the water line. This design helps keep many animals out. Beavers also make a small air hole at the top, and they line the inside with soft wood chips.

3. Beavers eat plants that grow near water. In summer, they chew green leaves, soft stems, and water plants. They also eat the bark from trees such as willow, aspen, and birch. Another winter food is a pile of branches stored underwater. The branches stay fresh in cold water, so beavers can reach more food when the pond is frozen.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, which linking word joins the two jobs of a beaver's tail? What two jobs does it connect?

2. Copy the sentence in paragraph 2 that uses but to join two different locations in the lodge.

3. In paragraph 3, what linking word adds a second fact about what beavers eat? What food fact comes after it?

4. In paragraph 1, what phrase introduces a new body part? What body part does it introduce?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about one category of facts about an animal you know, such as its food, body parts, or home. Use at least three linking words or phrases, including also and another, to connect your details.

ANSWER KEY

Beaver Detail Bridges

GRADE 3 · W.3.2c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each linking word or phrase that joins details in the same paragraph. Draw a line from each underlined word or phrase to the ideas it connects. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, which linking word joins the two jobs of a beaver's tail? What two jobs does it connect?	**and; the tail helps the beaver swim and balance on land.**
2	Copy the sentence in paragraph 2 that uses but to join two different locations in the lodge.	**The entrance is underwater, but the living space is above the water line.**
3	In paragraph 3, what linking word adds a second fact about what beavers eat? What food fact comes after it?	**also; beavers eat bark from trees such as willow, aspen, and birch.**
4	In paragraph 1, what phrase introduces a new body part? What body part does it introduce?	**Another useful body part; thick fur.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Sea turtles eat seagrass, jellyfish, and algae. They also eat sponges, but different kinds of sea turtles eat different foods. Another food for some sea turtles is crab.

Accept accurate paraphrases for the passage questions when the student correctly identifies the linking word or phrase and the connected ideas. For Part 3, accept any factual response about one category that has three sentences and uses at least three linking words or phrases, including also and another, correctly.