Beaver Builders

Notice how facts, definitions, and details develop an informational topic.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.2b "Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline six facts or concrete details that teach you about beavers and their homes. Circle one definition that makes a word clearer.

How Beavers Build

1. Beavers are rodents, mammals with sharp front teeth that keep growing. They live near streams, ponds, and lakes across much of North America. A beaver's broad, flat tail helps it swim and balance on land. Its fur has oily hairs that shed water, so the animal can stay warm while it works in cold water.

2. To make a dam, a beaver carries branches, stones, and mud to a moving stream. The pile slows the water and can form a pond behind it. This pond gives the beaver a safer place to swim than an open stream. Beavers use their front teeth to cut small trees and branches, then carry the pieces with their strong jaws.

3. Beavers also build lodges, which are homes made from branches and mud. Many lodges have an underwater entrance, making it harder for predators such as coyotes to get inside. The pond around a lodge may become a wetland, an area where land is covered by shallow water. Wetlands can provide homes for frogs, fish, ducks, and insects.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the definition of rodents tell you about beavers?

2. What three materials does the author name as parts of a dam?

3. Which detail explains how a dam changes a stream?

4. What examples does the author give of animals that can live in wetlands?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences explaining how a beaver's lodge helps it survive. Include a definition of lodge and two other facts from the passage, including one fact about the underwater entrance.

ANSWER KEY

Beaver Builders

GRADE 4 · W.4.2b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline six facts or concrete details that teach you about beavers and their homes. Circle one definition that makes a word clearer. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the definition of rodents tell you about beavers?	**Beavers are mammals with sharp front teeth that keep growing.**
2	What three materials does the author name as parts of a dam?	**Branches, stones, and mud.**
3	Which detail explains how a dam changes a stream?	**The pile slows the water and can form a pond behind it.**
4	What examples does the author give of animals that can live in wetlands?	**Frogs, fish, ducks, and insects.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A lodge is a beaver home made from branches and mud. Its underwater entrance makes it harder for coyotes to get inside. The pond around a lodge may become a wetland, an area covered by shallow water.

Accept accurate paraphrases of passage details for the short answers. For the open response, accept exactly three sentences that define lodge and include two accurate supporting facts, one of which explains the underwater entrance.