Busy Beaver Ponds

Find the central idea and supporting details in an informational text.

ELA.2.R.2 "Reading Informational Text"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show how a beaver dam helps living things. Number the details 1, 2, and 3.

What a Beaver Dam Does

1. Beavers build dams across small streams. A dam is a wall made from sticks, mud, and sometimes stones. Water gathers behind the dam and makes a pond. Beavers use the pond to swim safely to their homes.

2. The pond can help other animals, too. Frogs lay eggs in calm water near the shore. Fish may find places to hide under branches. Ducks can rest and search for food on the pond.

3. A beaver dam can also slow the water in a stream. Slower water may spread onto nearby land. This can make a wet place where plants grow. The plants give some animals food and shelter.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the central idea of the passage?

2. What two details from the second paragraph support the idea that the pond helps animals?

3. How does the last paragraph show another way a beaver dam helps living things?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences that explain how a beaver dam helps living things. Include one detail about water or plants and one detail about an animal.

ANSWER KEY

Busy Beaver Ponds

GRADE 2 · ELA.2.R.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show how a beaver dam helps living things. Number the details 1, 2, and 3. 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 passage?	**Beaver dams make ponds and wet places that help many living things.**
2	What two details from the second paragraph support the idea that the pond helps animals?	**Answers may include: Frogs lay eggs in calm water, fish hide under branches, or ducks rest and search for food.**
3	How does the last paragraph show another way a beaver dam helps living things?	**The dam can make a wet place where plants grow. The plants give animals food and shelter.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A beaver dam makes a pond that helps many living things. It slows water and can make a wet place where plants grow, and frogs lay eggs in calm water near the shore.

Accept equivalent central ideas about beaver dams creating places that help living things. For the open response, accept accurate details from the passage that include both a water or plant detail and an animal detail.