Builders of the Stream

Find the details that build a central idea.

ELA.4.R.2.2 "Explain how relevant details support the central idea, implied or explicit."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that states the central idea about beaver dams. Then number three details that support that idea.

How Beaver Dams Help

1. Beavers are sometimes called nature's engineers because they change streams. A beaver uses its strong front teeth to cut branches and carries mud, sticks, and stones to build a dam. The dam slows moving water. Behind it, a pond can form. Beavers build lodges in or near these ponds, where the water can help protect them from some predators.

2. The pond around a dam can become a home for more than beavers. Frogs may lay eggs in quieter water, and fish can find places to rest. Water-loving plants grow along the pond's edge. These plants offer food and shelter to insects, birds, and other animals. Because a dam creates slower water and wet land, it can increase the variety of life in an area.

3. A beaver pond can also affect water during dry times. The pond and wet ground around it can hold water after rain. Some of that water slowly moves into the soil and nearby stream. Beavers do not solve every water problem, but their dams can create wetlands that store water, support wildlife, and change the shape of a stream.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the central idea of the second paragraph?

2. How do the details about frogs and fish support the central idea?

3. Why is the detail about plants along the pond's edge relevant to the central idea?

4. Which detail supports the idea that a beaver pond can help during dry times? Explain how it supports that idea.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence explanation of how beaver dams affect an area. State a central idea in the first sentence, then use two details from the passage to support it.

ANSWER KEY

Builders of the Stream

GRADE 4 · ELA.4.R.2.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that states the central idea about beaver dams. Then number three details that support that idea. 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 second paragraph?	**Beaver dams can increase the variety of life in an area by creating slower water and wet land.**
2	How do the details about frogs and fish support the central idea?	**They show that the quieter pond water made by a dam gives different animals places to live or rest.**
3	Why is the detail about plants along the pond's edge relevant to the central idea?	**The plants provide food and shelter for insects, birds, and other animals, showing how the pond supports more life.**
4	Which detail supports the idea that a beaver pond can help during dry times? Explain how it supports that idea.	**The pond and wet ground can hold water after rain. This stored water can slowly move into the soil and nearby stream.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Beaver dams can make an area a better place for many living things. A dam slows water and forms a pond, giving frogs and fish calmer places to live. Plants along the pond provide food and shelter, so more animals can use the area.

Accept central ideas that explain that beaver dams change water and land in ways that support wildlife. Students should connect each chosen detail to the central idea, not only list facts from the passage.