Beaver Builders

Use details to explain an informational text's central idea.

ELA.5.R.2.2 "Explain how relevant details support the central idea(s), implied or explicit."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four details that show ways beavers change water or habitat. In the margin, write one central idea that the underlined details support.

How Beavers Shape Habitats

1. Beavers are often called nature's engineers because they change the places where they live. Using branches, mud, and stones, they build dams across small streams. Water collects behind a dam and forms a pond. The deep pond can protect beavers from some predators, which have a harder time reaching their lodge in the middle of the water.

2. A beaver pond does more than shelter one family. The still water can create wetland habitat for frogs, ducks, fish, and insects. Fallen trees near the pond provide places for insects to live, and those insects become food for other animals. Plants grow along the wet edges, giving animals cover and food during different seasons.

3. Beaver dams can also affect water farther downstream. During heavy rain, a pond may hold back some water and slow its movement. In dry times, water stored in the pond may keep a stream flowing longer. Scientists study these changes because beavers can help create healthier habitats, although each stream and watershed responds differently to these changes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What central idea about beavers and habitats is supported by all three paragraphs?

2. How does the detail about predators having a harder time reaching a lodge support the central idea?

3. How do the details about insects and plants along the pond's edge support the central idea?

4. Which two details in paragraph 3 support the idea that beaver dams change water conditions beyond the lodge? Explain what they show.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences explaining a central idea of the passage. Use one detail from one paragraph and one detail from a different paragraph, and explain how each detail supports the central idea.

ANSWER KEY

Beaver Builders

GRADE 5 · ELA.5.R.2.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline four details that show ways beavers change water or habitat. In the margin, write one central idea that the underlined details support. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What central idea about beavers and habitats is supported by all three paragraphs?	**Beavers change water and habitat in ways that help themselves and many other living things.**
2	How does the detail about predators having a harder time reaching a lodge support the central idea?	**It shows that a dam-created pond can help protect beavers.**
3	How do the details about insects and plants along the pond's edge support the central idea?	**They show that beaver ponds provide food, cover, and living spaces for other animals.**
4	Which two details in paragraph 3 support the idea that beaver dams change water conditions beyond the lodge? Explain what they show.	**A pond may hold back water and slow it during heavy rain, and stored water may keep a stream flowing longer in dry times. These details show that dams affect water movement downstream.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Beavers can improve habitats by changing how water moves through an area. Their dams create ponds where frogs, fish, insects, and other animals can find places to live or food to eat. The ponds may also slow water during rain and keep streams flowing longer when weather is dry.

Accept equivalent central ideas about beavers changing water and habitats to benefit themselves and other living things. Students should use accurate passage details and explain how each detail supports, rather than merely repeats, the central idea.