Beaver Changes

Identify key ideas, then restate them accurately.

ELA.6.R.3.2 "Paraphrase content from grade-level texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence in each paragraph that you think gives the most important idea. Circle up to three words or phrases in each paragraph that you could replace when you paraphrase.

How Beavers Shape a Stream

1. Along streams in North America, beavers build dams from branches, mud, and stones. A dam slows moving water, causing a pond to form behind it. Beavers use the pond as protection because deep water makes it harder for many land predators to reach their lodge. The lodge, often built from sticks and mud, has an underwater entrance. Inside, the animals rest, raise young, and store food for winter. A beaver family may repair its dam whenever water leaks through.

2. These ponds can change the surrounding habitat. When water spreads into nearby low areas, it may create wetlands with shallow water and muddy edges. Frogs, insects, fish, and water birds can find food or shelter there. Trees near a new pond sometimes die if their roots remain underwater for too long. Even so, the standing dead trees may later provide nesting places for woodpeckers and other birds. By altering water flow, beavers can create homes for many species.

3. People do not always welcome beaver activity. A dam can flood a road, a garden, or a field, and beavers may chew trees near homes. In some places, wildlife workers place a pipe through a dam. The pipe lets some water pass while leaving the pond in place. Workers may also wrap wire around valuable tree trunks. These methods can reduce conflicts without removing the animals or destroying the wetland habitat they have created nearby.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In your own words, paraphrase the first two sentences of paragraph 1.

2. Paraphrase why a beaver's pond and lodge can help protect it from predators.

3. In your own words, restate what can happen to trees near a new pond and how birds may use them later.

4. Paraphrase how wildlife workers can handle problems caused by beaver dams without removing beavers.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 45- to 60-word paraphrase of the whole passage. Include how beavers make ponds, one way ponds affect habitats, and one way people can reduce conflicts.

ANSWER KEY

Beaver Changes

GRADE 6 · ELA.6.R.3.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence in each paragraph that you think gives the most important idea. Circle up to three words or phrases in each paragraph that you could replace when you paraphrase. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In your own words, paraphrase the first two sentences of paragraph 1.	**Beavers use natural materials to block streams, and the slowed water forms a pond.**
2	Paraphrase why a beaver's pond and lodge can help protect it from predators.	**Deep pond water makes it difficult for many land predators to get to the lodge, which is entered from underwater.**
3	In your own words, restate what can happen to trees near a new pond and how birds may use them later.	**Trees can die when their roots stay underwater, but the dead trees can later become nesting sites for birds.**
4	Paraphrase how wildlife workers can handle problems caused by beaver dams without removing beavers.	**Workers can use a pipe to control some of the water and protect important trees with wire while keeping the pond.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Beavers block streams to make ponds that protect their homes and support their families. The new water can form wet places where many animals live, though it can harm some trees. When dams cause problems for people, workers can manage water levels and guard trees while keeping the wetland.

Accept accurate restatements that keep the passage's main ideas and cause-and-effect relationships. Students may use some necessary topic words, but they should not copy whole sentences from the passage.