Beaver Builder Notes

Find topic sentences and details in an informational model.

3.P.EICC.1.d "Build a repertoire of comprehension and composition skills, strategies, and techniques, drawing from them as needed to aid the interpretation and construction of texts. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read each paragraph. Underline its topic sentence, then number two details that support it, 1 and 2, so you can see how the author builds each idea.

How Beavers Shape Streams

1. Beavers are busy builders that can change a stream. They use their sharp front teeth to cut small trees and branches. Then they carry mud, sticks, and stones to make a dam across moving water. Water slows behind the dam, forming a pond where beavers can swim and find safety near their home each day.

2. A beaver dam does more than make a home. The pond can give fish, frogs, and insects a place to live. Wet ground near the pond helps some plants grow. The dam may also slow floodwater after heavy rain. Because a dam changes land and water, many living things can be affected by one beaver family.

3. People can help beavers and other wildlife by giving them space. If a dam causes trouble near a road or home, trained wildlife workers can look for safe solutions. They may guide water through a pipe or protect trees with wire. Learning why beavers build dams helps people make choices that protect both homes and habitats.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the main idea of paragraph 1? Write it in your own words.

2. Name two details from paragraph 2 that support its topic sentence.

3. How does the last sentence of paragraph 3 help close the paragraph?

4. Which paragraph best explains how a dam affects other living things? What clue helped you choose it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose an animal you know about. Write a three-sentence informational paragraph with one topic sentence and two detail sentences. Underline the topic sentence and number the detail sentences 1 and 2.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 3 · 3.P.EICC.1.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read each paragraph. Underline its topic sentence, then number two details that support it, 1 and 2, so you can see how the author builds each idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the main idea of paragraph 1? Write it in your own words.	**Beavers build dams that change streams and create ponds.**
2	Name two details from paragraph 2 that support its topic sentence.	**Any two: The pond gives fish, frogs, and insects a place to live; wet ground helps some plants grow; the dam may slow floodwater.**
3	How does the last sentence of paragraph 3 help close the paragraph?	**It explains that learning about beavers can help people protect homes and habitats.**
4	Which paragraph best explains how a dam affects other living things? What clue helped you choose it?	**Paragraph 2. Its topic sentence says a dam does more than make a home, and its details tell effects on animals, plants, and floodwater.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Woodpeckers help create homes in forests. 1. They peck holes in dead trees to make nests. 2. Small birds or squirrels may use empty holes for shelter.

Accept a clear topic sentence followed by two accurate details that support it. Students may choose any animal if their details connect to the topic sentence.