Beaver Builders

Find how facts and headings build an informational text.

3.T.T.2.a "Describe the techniques used to present and design expository texts, including facts and key details used to support the main idea. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that tells the big idea of the whole passage. Then number 1, 2, and 3 beside three facts that support that big idea.

Beaver Builders

1 Beavers use their bodies and building skills to make safe homes near water. They are mammals that live near ponds, streams, and rivers. Their flat tails help them swim and balance on land. Beavers have webbed back feet for paddling. They use sharp front teeth to cut small trees and branches. These body parts help beavers gather food and build lodges.

2 Dams Change Water Beavers pile sticks, mud, and rocks across moving water to make a dam. A dam slows the water and can form a pond. The deeper pond helps protect beavers from animals that hunt them. It also gives them a place to store branches for winter food under the water near their homes.

3 Lodges Are Homes Beavers build homes called lodges beside or inside ponds. A lodge may have walls of branches and mud. The entrance is usually underwater, which makes it harder for many predators to get inside. In winter, beavers stay in the lodge and eat branches they stored earlier. By building dams and lodges, beavers shape the places where they live.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What sentence states the main idea of the whole passage?

2. Write two facts from the passage that support the main idea.

3. How does the heading "Dams Change Water" help the reader?

4. Why did the author include facts about beavers' tails, feet, and teeth?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a mini informational text about an animal. Give it a title and a heading, then write 3 sentences that state a main idea and include at least two accurate facts that support it.

ANSWER KEY

Beaver Builders

GRADE 3 · 3.T.T.2.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that tells the big idea of the whole passage. Then number 1, 2, and 3 beside three facts that support that big idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What sentence states the main idea of the whole passage?	**Beavers use their bodies and building skills to make safe homes near water.**
2	Write two facts from the passage that support the main idea.	**Answers may include that beavers use sharp teeth to cut branches and build dams from sticks, mud, and rocks.**
3	How does the heading "Dams Change Water" help the reader?	**It tells the reader that the next part explains how beaver dams affect water.**
4	Why did the author include facts about beavers' tails, feet, and teeth?	**The facts show how beavers' body parts help them swim, paddle, cut branches, and build safe homes.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Sea Turtles Built for the Sea Sea turtles have body parts that help them live in the ocean. Their flippers push them through water, and their shells protect their bodies. Many sea turtles travel long distances between feeding areas and nesting beaches.

Accept equivalent statements of the main idea and any accurate details from the passage that support it. For Part 3, check for a title, a heading, a clear main idea, and at least two accurate supporting facts.