Dam Change Chain

Notice how facts, examples, and cause and effect explain an idea.

3.T.T.2 "Expository Techniques: Explain, analyze, and use expository techniques to shape understandings."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each sentence that shows cause and effect, and circle each list of examples. These details show how an author explains an idea.

How Beaver Ponds Help

1. A beaver pond begins when a beaver builds a dam across a small stream. A dam is a wall made from sticks, mud, and stones. Water slows behind the dam and spreads into the woods. This new pond is not only a home for beavers. It can change the land and help many other living things.

2. First, the pond gives animals places to live. Fish swim in deeper water, and frogs lay eggs near the pond's edge. Ducks may rest on the water, while turtles can warm themselves on logs. The pond also brings drinking water to deer, birds, and other animals. By holding water in one place, the dam creates a busy habitat.

3. Beaver ponds can also help the ground during dry times. Some pond water soaks slowly into the soil. Later, that water may keep nearby plants from drying out as quickly. Plants along the pond give food and shelter to insects and small animals. In this way, one dam starts a chain of changes: slower water makes a pond, and the pond supports life.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the definition of a dam help the reader understand the passage?

2. Write one cause-and-effect relationship from the passage.

3. Why does the author name fish, frogs, ducks, and turtles?

4. How does the final sentence help explain the author's main idea?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence mini-explanation of how a beaver dam affects a forest. Define a dam in the first sentence, include cause and effect in the second sentence, and name two living things from the passage in the third sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Dam Change Chain

GRADE 3 · 3.T.T.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each sentence that shows cause and effect, and circle each list of examples. These details show how an author explains an idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the definition of a dam help the reader understand the passage?	**It tells that a dam is a wall and explains that it is made from sticks, mud, and stones.**
2	Write one cause-and-effect relationship from the passage.	**A beaver dam slows water, so water spreads and forms a pond.**
3	Why does the author name fish, frogs, ducks, and turtles?	**The names are examples that show different animals can use the pond.**
4	How does the final sentence help explain the author's main idea?	**It sums up the chain of changes from a dam to a pond that supports living things.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A beaver dam is a wall made from sticks, mud, and stones. When the dam slows water, the water spreads and forms a pond. Fish and frogs can use the pond as a place to live.

Accept accurate definitions, cause-and-effect relationships, and examples that come from the passage. For Part 3, check for exactly three sentences with all three requested expository details.