# Beaver Safety Signals

Notice how a park guide informs and directs its readers.

**4.P.ST.2** "Author, Audience, & Purpose: Interpret and construct texts by developing and applying knowledge of the strategies and techniques authors use to accommodate the target audience and achieve the text's purpose."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline words that show the text is for park visitors, circle directions that tell readers what to do, and number three facts about beavers. Your marks should show how the writer teaches visitors and helps them act safely.

### Beaver Watch at Pine Creek

1. Have you seen a tree stump shaped like a pencil? A beaver may have chewed it. Beavers use strong front teeth to cut wood. They build lodges, which are homes made from sticks and mud. At Pine Creek Park, you might spot tooth marks near the water. Look carefully, but stay on the path with an adult.

2. Beavers do more than build homes. Their dams slow moving water, which can create ponds. Ponds can give frogs, fish, and ducks places to live. A dam can also change where water flows, so it is important not to pull apart sticks or toss rocks into one. Quiet visitors have a better chance of seeing wildlife.

3. If you find fresh chips of wood, tell a park guide or another adult. Then watch from far away. Beavers are wild animals, and they need space to feed, swim, and care for their young. Take a photo only if you can do so without leaving the path. Your careful choices help Pine Creek stay a safe home for animals.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Who is this guide written for? Give two clues from the text.

2. What are the guide's two main purposes?

3. What technique does the writer use in the first paragraph to help young visitors picture signs of a beaver? Explain how it helps.

4. Why does the writer explain what dams do before telling readers not to pull apart sticks or toss rocks into a dam?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence park sign for young visitors about watching turtles safely at a pond. Include one true fact, one direct action for the reader, and a word or phrase that speaks directly to the reader.

**ANSWER KEY**

# Beaver Safety Signals

**GRADE 4 · 4.P.ST.2**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words that show the text is for park visitors, circle directions that tell readers what to do, and number three facts about beavers. Your marks should show how the writer teaches visitors and helps them act safely. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Who is this guide written for? Give two clues from the text. | **It is written for young visitors to Pine Creek Park, likely visiting with adults. Clues include "you might spot," "stay on the path with an adult," and the direction to tell a park guide.** |
| 2 | What are the guide's two main purposes? | **To teach visitors facts about beavers and to tell them how to watch beavers without disturbing them or their habitat.** |
| 3 | What technique does the writer use in the first paragraph to help young visitors picture signs of a beaver? Explain how it helps. | **The writer asks a question and compares a chewed stump to a pencil. This gives visitors a familiar picture of what beaver tooth marks may look like.** |
| 4 | Why does the writer explain what dams do before telling readers not to pull apart sticks or toss rocks into a dam? | **The explanation shows that dams create habitat and change water flow. It gives readers a reason to leave dams alone.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Painted turtles often warm themselves on logs in the sun. Stay on the path and watch quietly from a distance. Your calm steps help turtles rest safely.

Accept signs with exactly three sentences that clearly address young visitors, include an accurate turtle fact, give a direct action, and use reader-focused language such as "you" or "your." Accept other accurate pond turtle facts and safe, respectful actions.