Stream Shapers

Analyze how definitions, examples, comparisons, and cause-and-effect links explain a topic.

7.T.T.2 "Expository Techniques: Analyze and apply expository techniques."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that defines a key word, circle the sentence that gives a specific example, and number two cause-and-effect links 1 and 2.

How Beavers Change a Stream

1. Beavers are often called ecosystem engineers because their building changes the places where they live. An ecosystem is a community of living things and the nonliving parts around them, such as water, soil, and sunlight. Using branches, mud, and stones, a beaver builds a dam across moving water. The dam slows the stream and creates a pond behind it. This work may look simple, but it can reshape a whole valley in some places over time.

2. Before a dam is built, a stream usually moves in one narrow channel. After a dam holds back water, the pond spreads into nearby low areas. The deeper, slower water can provide shelter for fish, frogs, and young water birds. For example, wood ducks may use quiet pond edges, while amphibians can lay eggs in shallow water. In this way, one structure can create several kinds of habitat where animals find food, safety, and space.

3. Beaver ponds also affect people. When ponds store water, they can reduce the speed of some floodwater after heavy rain. The wet soil around a pond may hold water longer than dry ground does. However, dams can also block culverts or flood roads, so communities sometimes protect problem areas with fences or water-control devices. Rather than treating beavers as simply helpful or harmful, scientists study the location, season, and needs of nearby people and wildlife.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What term is defined in paragraph 1, and what does it mean?

2. How does paragraph 2 use a before-and-after comparison to explain a dam's effect?

3. What specific example supports the idea that a beaver pond can provide habitat for animals?

4. Which signal word introduces a contrasting effect of beaver dams in paragraph 3, and what problem follows it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph of 4 or 5 sentences explaining how a useful invention changes daily life. Include a definition, a specific example, and one cause-and-effect relationship. Underline the definition, circle the example, and label the cause-and-effect sentence C/E.

ANSWER KEY # Stream Shapers

GRADE 7 · 7.T.T.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that defines a key word, circle the sentence that gives a specific example, and number two cause-and-effect links 1 and 2. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What term is defined in paragraph 1, and what does it mean?	**Ecosystem. It is a community of living things and the nonliving parts around them.**
2	How does paragraph 2 use a before-and-after comparison to explain a dam's effect?	**It shows that before a dam, water moves in one narrow channel, but after a dam holds back water, a pond spreads into nearby low areas.**
3	What specific example supports the idea that a beaver pond can provide habitat for animals?	**Wood ducks may use quiet pond edges, and amphibians can lay eggs in shallow water.**
4	Which signal word introduces a contrasting effect of beaver dams in paragraph 3, and what problem follows it?	**However. Dams can block culverts or flood roads.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

__A reusable water bottle is a container designed to be filled and used many times.__ ((For example, a student can refill it at school instead of buying a new drink each day.)) [C/E] Because the same bottle replaces many single-use bottles, it can reduce plastic trash. Choosing a durable bottle also gives students a way to carry water during the day.

Accept equivalent explanations of the passage's definition, comparison, example, and contrasting effect. For Part 3, accept any accurate topic that includes all three requested expository techniques and clear markings.