Beaver Builders

Read a model of clear informational writing.

3.W "Students research and write for various purposes using processes and applying their knowledge of language and sentence structure."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that explain how a beaver builds a dam. Circle two words that show the order of the steps.

How Beavers Build a Home

1. Beavers are builders that change the places where they live. A beaver may pile sticks, branches, and mud across a small stream. This wall is called a dam. The dam slows the moving water, so a pond forms behind it. A deeper pond helps a beaver swim away from hungry animals, such as wolves. The water also gives the beaver a place to build its home.

2. First, a beaver cuts branches with its strong front teeth. It carries them to the stream and pushes them into place. Then it packs mud between the branches to slow leaks. A dam does not have to stop every drop of water. The beaver can add more sticks or mud when water washes part of the dam away.

3. A beaver often makes a lodge in the pond. The lodge is a shelter made from branches and mud. Its entrance is under the water, but the living space inside is above the water. This helps keep the beaver safer from animals on land. In cold months, beavers may store branches in the pond. They can swim out from the lodge to eat the bark.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the writer want you to understand about beavers? Give one fact from the passage that helps explain it.

2. You are writing about how beavers build dams. Which two materials from the passage could you name instead of saying “stuff”?

3. Combine these ideas into one sentence using because: “A beaver can swim away from hungry animals. The pond is deep.”

4. Which two words in paragraph 2 help readers follow the order of the work?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence paragraph that teaches a new student how to get ready for a rainy walk home. Use an order word, one specific detail, and a sentence with because or so.

ANSWER KEY

Beaver Builders

GRADE 3 · 3.W

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that explain how a beaver builds a dam. Circle two words that show the order of the steps. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the writer want you to understand about beavers? Give one fact from the passage that helps explain it.	**The writer explains how beavers build dams and homes. For example, beavers pack mud between branches to slow leaks.**
2	You are writing about how beavers build dams. Which two materials from the passage could you name instead of saying "stuff"?	**Branches and mud.**
3	Combine these ideas into one sentence using because: "A beaver can swim away from hungry animals. The pond is deep."	**A beaver can swim away from hungry animals because the pond is deep.**
4	Which two words in paragraph 2 help readers follow the order of the work?	**First and Then.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Before a rainy walk home, check that you have everything you need. First, zip your raincoat and pull up its hood. Put your homework inside your backpack so it stays dry. Then take your umbrella before you leave.

For question 1, accept a clear statement of the passage's purpose with any accurate supporting fact. For question 2, accept any two of sticks, branches, and mud.