# Changes at Willow Creek

Connect two texts to understand a beaver pond

**4.RC.9** "Combine information from two texts on the same topic in order to demonstrate knowledge about the subject."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline two pairs of connected details, with one detail from each text in each pair. Number the details in each pair 1 or 2 to show which ones belong together.

### A New Pond in the Park

1 **Text 1: A Beaver's Work** Beavers build dams across small streams using branches, mud, and stones. A dam slows the stream and raises the water behind it, forming a pond. The deeper water covers the entrance to a beaver's lodge, which can help protect the beaver from land predators. A dam does not stop all water. Some water still flows over or through it.

2 A new pond changes the land around a stream. Water may spread over plants growing near the banks. Frogs can lay their eggs in the pond's quiet water. Some fish find shelter among the plants at the pond's edge. People may need to move a walking path if water covers it. These changes can help some living things while causing problems for people.

3 **Text 2: Willow Creek Report** Last spring, a beaver built a dam at Willow Creek Park. This fall, a park worker found water where the stream had once been narrow. She counted frog eggs in the still water and spotted small fish hiding among flooded grass. The old walking path was under water, so workers marked a new path on higher ground. Visitors can now watch the pond from the dry path.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the two texts together explain why the narrow stream at Willow Creek became a pond?

2. Why might the park worker have found frog eggs in the still water? Use a detail from each text.

3. What does Text 1 help you understand about the small fish hiding among flooded grass in Text 2?

4. Why did workers mark a new path on higher ground? Use details from both texts.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A visitor wants the dam removed so the old path will be dry again. Write three or four sentences that weigh a reason to remove the dam against a reason to leave it, then state your choice. Use details from both texts.

**ANSWER KEY**

# Changes at Willow Creek

**GRADE 4 · 4.RC.9**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two pairs of connected details, with one detail from each text in each pair. Number the details in each pair 1 or 2 to show which ones belong together. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How do the two texts together explain why the narrow stream at Willow Creek became a pond? | **Text 2 says a beaver built a dam at Willow Creek. Text 1 explains that a dam slows a stream and raises the water behind it, forming a pond.** |
| 2 | Why might the park worker have found frog eggs in the still water? Use a detail from each text. | **Text 1 says frogs can lay eggs in a pond's quiet water. Text 2 reports frog eggs in the still water at Willow Creek.** |
| 3 | What does Text 1 help you understand about the small fish hiding among flooded grass in Text 2? | **Text 1 explains that some fish find shelter among plants at a pond's edge. The flooded grass could provide shelter for the fish at Willow Creek.** |
| 4 | Why did workers mark a new path on higher ground? Use details from both texts. | **Text 1 says pond water may cover a walking path. Text 2 says the old path at Willow Creek was under water, so workers marked a new one on higher ground.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The old path is under water, so I understand why the visitor wants the dam removed. I would leave the dam in place because Text 1 explains that pond water can help protect a beaver by covering its lodge entrance. Text 2 says workers marked a new path on higher ground. Visitors can use that path while the beaver keeps its pond.

Accept other accurately supported connections between the texts. For Your Turn, either choice is valid if the response weighs both sides and uses details from both texts.