When Beavers Build

Read closely to explain how a dam changes a stream.

RI.3.10 "Routinely and flexibly develop and apply background knowledge along with a variety of comprehension strategies to understand and analyze grade-appropriate, complex informational text independently."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that help you explain how a beaver dam changes a stream, and circle one word you can figure out from nearby clues.

A Pond Made by Beavers

1 After a heavy rain, a stream can rush past rocks and carry small sticks away. Beavers use sticks, mud, and stones to build a dam across a stream. The dam slows the moving water. Water gathers behind it and forms a pond. Think of how water pools behind a pile of leaves in a gutter. A beaver dam works in a similar way.

2 Beavers also build a lodge, a shelter made of branches and mud, in or near the pond. Its entrance may be underwater, which helps keep some predators from reaching the beavers. The deeper water can cover the entrance even when a stream is low. Beavers do not eat fish. They eat plants, including bark and leaves, and store branches underwater for food when it is cold.

3 When water spreads out, the land around the pond becomes wetter. Frogs may lay eggs in the still water, and some birds may find food near its edge. But a new pond can also cover land where trees once grew. The dam does not help every plant in the same way. Over time, a beaver pond can change which living things make their home nearby.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the gutter example help you understand why a pond forms behind a beaver dam?

2. What does lodge mean in the passage? Which nearby words help you figure it out?

3. A frog needs still water for its eggs. Why might a beaver pond be a good place for them? Connect details from two paragraphs.

4. A reader says, “A beaver dam helps every living thing nearby.” Which details show that this claim is too broad?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a park worker finds a beaver dam near a walking path. Write three or four sentences about one change people might notice, one change an animal might notice, and one question you would ask before deciding what to do about the dam. Support your ideas with two details from the passage.

ANSWER KEY # When Beavers Build

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that help you explain how a beaver dam changes a stream, and circle one word you can figure out from nearby clues. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the gutter example help you understand why a pond forms behind a beaver dam?	**Just as water pools behind leaves in a gutter, stream water gathers behind a dam because the dam slows its flow.**
2	What does lodge mean in the passage? Which nearby words help you figure it out?	**A lodge is a shelter. The words "a shelter made of branches and mud" explain its meaning.**
3	A frog needs still water for its eggs. Why might a beaver pond be a good place for them? Connect details from two paragraphs.	**The dam slows the stream and forms a pond. The pond has still water where frogs may lay eggs.**
4	A reader says, "A beaver dam helps every living thing nearby." Which details show that this claim is too broad?	**A new pond may cover land where trees once grew, and the passage says the dam does not help every plant in the same way.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

People might notice water spreading toward the path because the dam slows the stream and makes a pond. A frog might find still water where it can lay eggs. I would ask whether the pond will cover the path. The answer could help the worker decide what to do.

Accept other reasonable inferences supported by passage details. For the marking job, students may underline any two details about changes to the stream and circle a word whose meaning nearby text helps explain.