The Beaver's Pond

Trace how a dam changes a stream and the life around it.

RI.3.3 "Describe the relationship between individuals, a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts or steps in technical procedures over the course of a text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the beaver's steps for making the dam. Circle two changes caused by the new pond, and number them in the order you read them.

A Dam Changes a Stream

1. At the edge of a stream, a beaver cuts small trees with its sharp front teeth. It drags branches into the water and pushes them across the stream. The moving water presses against the branches. The beaver packs mud and stones into the gaps. Now less water slips through. As water backs up behind the new dam, a pond begins to form.

2. The pond gives the beaver a safer place to live. In deep water, it can swim away from animals that hunt it. The beaver builds a lodge from sticks and mud near the pond. Its doorway is under the water, but the room inside stays above the water. The dam helps keep enough water around the lodge to cover that doorway.

3. The pond changes life for other animals, too. Water spreads over low ground and makes a wet place where frogs can lay eggs. Insects gather near the water, and some birds eat them. Over time, mud may settle on the pond floor, and plants may grow along its edges. One beaver's work has changed the stream and the places where other animals live.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the branches, mud, and stones work together to make a pond?

2. How does the dam help keep the beaver's lodge doorway under water?

3. How does the new pond make a place for frogs to lay eggs?

4. How can the beaver's dam lead to food for some birds?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a long dry spell makes the pond much shallower. Write three sentences explaining how this change could affect the lodge doorway and one other animal from the passage. Use passage details to explain why.

ANSWER KEY # The Beaver's Pond

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the beaver's steps for making the dam. Circle two changes caused by the new pond, and number them in the order you read them. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the branches, mud, and stones work together to make a pond?	**The branches stretch across the stream, and mud and stones fill the gaps. Less water gets through, so water backs up into a pond.**
2	How does the dam help keep the beaver's lodge doorway under water?	**The dam holds back water, keeping enough water around the lodge to cover its doorway.**
3	How does the new pond make a place for frogs to lay eggs?	**Pond water spreads over low ground, making a wet place where frogs can lay eggs.**
4	How can the beaver's dam lead to food for some birds?	**The dam helps form a pond. Insects gather near the pond water, and some birds eat the insects.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

If the pond becomes shallow, the beaver's lodge doorway might no longer stay under water. This could make it easier for animals that hunt beavers to reach the doorway. Frogs might also have fewer wet places to lay their eggs because water would cover less low ground.

For Part 3, accept other reasonable effects on frogs or birds if the student explains how shallower water could cause them. Answers should connect each change to a detail in the passage.