Beaver Ripple Effects

Trace how one dam changes a stream and the lives around it.

RI.5.2 "Analyze how the central ideas are reflected in a text, and cite relevant implicit and explicit evidence to support thinking."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show how the dam changes the stream, and circle two details that show how those changes affect animals or people. In the margin, write a central idea supported by your marks.

What a Beaver Dam Changes

1. At the edge of a forest, a beaver stacks branches and mud across a narrow stream. Water slows behind the dam and spreads over nearby ground. A shallow pond forms where the stream once rushed past. Beavers build dams to keep deep water near their lodges, where they can enter underwater. The dam does not just change the beavers' home. It changes the whole stream.

2. The new pond gives fish places to hide among flooded plants. Frogs lay eggs in still water, and birds can hunt for insects along the pond's edge. During dry weeks, water held by the dam may keep the area damp longer. A single dam can make many small places to live. Animals that never helped build it may still depend on the pond.

3. A dam can also send water onto a walking trail or into a farm field. People sometimes pull out the dam, but beavers may rebuild it. In some places, workers place a pipe through the dam to lower the pond without draining it. The trail can become drier while the pond remains deep enough for the beavers. Keeping both needs in mind takes more planning than simply removing branches.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is one central idea developed in the first two paragraphs? Support your answer with one detail from each paragraph.

2. The passage says animals that did not build the dam may depend on the pond. What does that suggest about the pond's importance? Cite a detail that led you to this idea.

3. What central idea about people and beavers does the last paragraph develop? Cite two details that support it.

4. How does the detail that beavers may rebuild a removed dam support the last paragraph's central idea? Use another detail from that paragraph to explain.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three- or four-sentence caption explaining how one beaver dam can help wildlife and cause a problem for people. Include details from two different paragraphs and an inference about why one detail matters.

ANSWER KEY

Beaver Ripple Effects

GRADE 5 · RI.5.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show how the dam changes the stream, and circle two details that show how those changes affect animals or people. In the margin, write a central idea supported by your marks. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is one central idea developed in the first two paragraphs? Support your answer with one detail from each paragraph.	**A beaver dam changes the stream in ways that help other animals. It forms a pond, and frogs lay eggs in the pond's still water.**
2	The passage says animals that did not build the dam may depend on the pond. What does that suggest about the pond's importance? Cite a detail that led you to this idea.	**The pond provides places some animals need to live or reproduce. For example, frogs lay eggs in its still water.**
3	What central idea about people and beavers does the last paragraph develop? Cite two details that support it.	**People can address flooding while leaving the beavers a pond. A dam may flood a trail, but a pipe can lower the water without draining the pond.**
4	How does the detail that beavers may rebuild a removed dam support the last paragraph's central idea? Use another detail from that paragraph to explain.	**Removing the dam may not solve the flooding for long. A pipe offers another solution because it can lower the water while keeping the pond deep enough for beavers.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A beaver dam turns a rushing stream into a pond. Frogs lay eggs in its still water, so the pond may help new frogs survive. But the dam can also flood a walking trail. A pipe can lower the water while leaving the beavers a deep pond.

Accept central ideas stated in the student's own words when the cited details support them. Inferences should follow reasonably from passage evidence, even if they are not stated directly.