Changes by Animals

Use evidence to explain changes to a habitat

L.2.3A.2 "Construct scientific arguments to explain how animals can make major changes (e.g., beaver dams obstruct streams, or large deer populations destroying crops) and minor changes to their environments (e.g., ant hills, crawfish burrows…"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline what each animal does. Circle words that show how much land or water changes.

A Dam and a Burrow

1. A beaver cuts branches and packs them with mud across a stream. Water piles up behind the dam and makes a pond. The pond covers land where grass once grew. Fish and frogs can live in the new water.
2. Near the pond, a crayfish digs a burrow in soft, wet ground. It pushes up a little pile of mud beside the hole. The hole gives the crayfish a place to hide. Only a small patch of ground changes.
3. The beaver's pond reaches the bank and covers patches of grass. The crayfish's mud pile sits close to its hole. A beetle can walk around the pile. A frog must swim across part of the new pond to reach the far bank.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why is the beaver's change a major change? Use one detail from the text.

2. Why is the crayfish's change a minor change? Use one detail from the text.

3. How does the beaver's work change where frogs can go? Use a detail from the text.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a different animal that changes its home. Write two sentences: tell what it does, then use a clue about the area changed to explain why the change is major or minor.

ANSWER KEY

Changes by Animals

GRADE 2 · L.2.3A.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline what each animal does. Circle words that show how much land or water changes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why is the beaver's change a major change? Use one detail from the text.	**The dam makes a pond that covers land where grass once grew.**
2	Why is the crayfish's change a minor change? Use one detail from the text.	**Its burrow and mud pile change only a small patch of ground.**
3	How does the beaver's work change where frogs can go? Use a detail from the text.	**The dam makes a pond where frogs can live, and a frog must swim across part of it to reach the far bank.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

An ant builds a small mound of soil at its nest. This is a minor change because the mound covers only a small patch of ground.

Accept answers that name a plausible animal action and explain its effect on the environment. The major or minor claim should match the size of the area described.