Stream Changes

Read for evidence of how habitat changes help and harm living things.

L.3.4.1 "Obtain data from informational text to explain how changes in habitats (both those that occur naturally and those caused by organisms) can be beneficial or harmful to the organisms that live there."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the three habitat changes in the passage. For each change, circle one living thing it helps and underline one living thing it harms.

Changes Along a Stream

1. A small stream runs past a grassy bank. In spring, heavy rain can make the stream spill over its sides. The rushing water may wash away a bird's nest on the low bank. When the water goes down, it leaves damp mud. Willow seeds can sprout in this mud. The same flood can harm a bird but help new plants grow.

2. Beavers can change the stream, too. They pile sticks and mud across it to build a dam. Water backs up behind the dam and makes a pond. Frogs can lay eggs in the pond's still water. But some fish need cool, fast-moving water. A pond may be too warm and slow for these fish. One change gives frogs a place to breed but takes away some fish habitat.

3. People can change this habitat as well. Suppose people cut down bushes beside the stream to make room for a path. Sunlight reaches the ground, so more wildflowers may grow there. Bees can visit the flowers for nectar. Without the bushes, less shade covers the water. The water may warm up, making it harder for fish that need cool water to live there.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How can a spring flood help willow plants grow?

2. How can that same flood harm a bird?

3. How can a beaver dam help frogs but harm some fish?

4. How might cutting down bushes help bees but harm fish?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine the beaver dam breaks and the pond drains. Write three sentences explaining how this change could help one animal and harm another. Use facts from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Stream Changes

GRADE 3 · L.3.4.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number the three habitat changes in the passage. For each change, circle one living thing it helps and underline one living thing it harms. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can a spring flood help willow plants grow?	**The flood leaves damp mud where willow seeds can sprout.**
2	How can that same flood harm a bird?	**Rushing water may wash away a bird's nest on the low bank.**
3	How can a beaver dam help frogs but harm some fish?	**The dam makes a pond with still water where frogs can lay eggs. The pond may be too warm and slow for fish that need cool, fast water.**
4	How might cutting down bushes help bees but harm fish?	**More sunlight may help wildflowers grow, giving bees nectar. With less shade, the stream may warm and become harder for fish that need cool water to live in.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

If the beaver dam breaks, the pond could drain and the stream could move fast again. Fish that need cool, fast water might have more room to live. Frogs could lose the still pond water where they lay their eggs.

Accept answers that link each effect to a change described in the passage. For Your Turn, students should explain a possible benefit and harm from the dam breaking, using passage facts.