

Beaver Word Detectives

Use context clues to unlock word and phrase meanings.

3R4 "Determine the meaning of words, phrases, figurative language, and academic and content-specific words. (RI&RL)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or phrases that help you figure out *lodge*, *wetland*, *nature's engineers*, and *impact*. Number the clues 1 through 4 to match each word or phrase.

Builders of the Pond

- ① At dawn, a beaver slid into a pond beside a forest. It carried a willow branch to its lodge, a home made from sticks and mud. The beaver's flat tail slapped the water when it sensed danger. This loud signal warned nearby beavers to dive beneath the surface, where they could stay safe for a while.
- ② Beavers build dams across moving water. A dam is a wall of branches, stones, and mud that slows a stream. Behind the dam, water spreads over land and stays very wet. This wetland can become a neighborhood for frogs, fish, ducks, and insects. In this watery neighborhood, many animals find food and shelter there each day.
- ③ People sometimes call beavers "nature's engineers." They plan where to pile branches and mud, and their dams shape the water around them. A beaver's dam can have an impact on the area around it. The pond may hold more water during dry times, and it gives plants and animals a place to grow and feed.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What does *lodge* mean in paragraph 1? Which words help you know?

2 What is a *wetland*? Use clues from paragraph 2.

3 What does the phrase “nature’s engineers” mean?

4 What does *impact* mean in paragraph 3?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly two sentences about a beaver changing its habitat. Use one content-specific word and one figurative phrase. Add clues that show what each means.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases that help you figure out *lodge*, *wetland*, *nature's engineers*, and *impact*. Number the clues 1 through 4 to match each word or phrase. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does <i>lodge</i> mean in paragraph 1? Which words help you know?	A lodge is a beaver's home. The words "made from sticks and mud" help show its meaning.
2	What is a <i>wetland</i> ? Use clues from paragraph 2.	A wetland is land that is very wet, where water has spread over the land.
3	What does the phrase "nature's engineers" mean?	It means beavers are like engineers because they plan and build dams that shape water.
4	What does <i>impact</i> mean in paragraph 3?	Impact means an effect or change. The dam changes the water and creates a place for plants and animals.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A beaver builds a dam, a wall that slows a stream, and this wall is a water gate because it changes the flow. The dam creates a wetland, land that stays very wet, where animals can live.

Accept equivalent meanings supported by passage clues. For Your Turn, accept any two sentences that include a content-specific word, a figurative phrase, and clear clues to both meanings.