

# Pond Builder Pages

Notice how an informational writer introduces a topic and groups details.

**3W2.a** "Introduce a topic and organize related information together."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline the sentence that introduces the topic, and circle the first sentence in each paragraph that tells that paragraph's main group of information.

### How Beavers Change Streams

- ① Beavers are busy animals that can change a small stream into a pond. They use their strong teeth to cut branches. Then they pile branches, mud, and stones across moving water. This structure is called a dam. The dam slows the water, so a deeper pond can slowly form behind it.
- ② Beavers use the new pond to make a safe home. Near the pond, they build a lodge from branches and mud. The lodge may have an underwater entrance, which helps keep many land animals out. Inside, beavers rest and care for their young. The pond also gives beavers a place to swim away from danger.
- ③ A beaver pond can also help other living things. Fish may find cooler, deeper water in the pond. Frogs can lay eggs in quiet water near pond plants. Birds may visit to eat insects or build nests nearby. By slowing water, beaver dams can make wet places where many kinds of plants and animals live together.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** What topic does the first sentence introduce?

**2** What related information is grouped together in paragraph 2?

**3** What related information is grouped together in paragraph 3?

**4** Why does the writer explain beavers' homes in paragraph 2 before explaining other living things in paragraph 3?

**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Choose a topic you know well, such as a pet, a game, or a place. Write five sentences: introduce the topic, write two sentences about one related idea, then write two sentences about a second related idea.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline the sentence that introduces the topic, and circle the first sentence in each paragraph that tells that paragraph's main group of information. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                        | ANSWER                                                                                                                                  |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What topic does the first sentence introduce?                                                                   | <b>Beavers can change a small stream into a pond.</b>                                                                                   |
| 2 | What related information is grouped together in paragraph 2?                                                    | <b>Paragraph 2 groups details about how beavers use the pond for a safe home, including their lodge, young, and escape from danger.</b> |
| 3 | What related information is grouped together in paragraph 3?                                                    | <b>Paragraph 3 groups details about how a beaver pond helps other living things, such as fish, frogs, birds, plants, and animals.</b>   |
| 4 | Why does the writer explain beavers' homes in paragraph 2 before explaining other living things in paragraph 3? | <b>The writer first explains how the pond helps beavers, then expands to explain how it helps other plants and animals.</b>             |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

A school garden gives students a place to grow food and flowers. First, gardeners prepare the soil by pulling weeds and adding compost. They plant seeds at the right depth. Next, plants need regular care. Students water the garden and check leaves for hungry insects.

Accept any clear topic sentence followed by two details about one related idea and two details about a second related idea. Details should fit the topic and be grouped in the stated order.