

Beaver Builder Notes

Use facts, definitions, details, and a useful drawing to explain a topic.

3W2.b “Develop a topic with facts, definitions, and details; include illustrations when useful for aiding comprehension.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each definition. Circle three facts or details that explain what a dam does or how a labeled drawing can help a reader.

How Beavers Build

- ① Beavers are large rodents that live near ponds, streams, and rivers. A rodent is a mammal with front teeth that keep growing. Beavers use their strong, flat teeth to cut small trees and branches. They carry the wood to the water. Their wide, flat tails help them swim and balance as they work in deep water.
- ② A beaver dam is a wall of sticks, mud, and stones built across moving water. The wall slows the water and can form a pond. In the pond, beavers may build a lodge, which is a home with an underwater entrance. The entrance helps keep many land animals from getting inside. A pond also gives beavers a safer place to swim.
- ③ A simple drawing can help readers understand how a dam changes a stream. Draw water on one side of the dam and a pond on the other side. Add labels for the dam, pond, lodge, and underwater entrance. The labels point to important parts. A reader can see that the pond is behind the dam and that the lodge sits in the pond.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What does the passage say a rodent is?

2 Write two details that explain how a beaver uses its body while working.

3 Which four parts should be labeled in a drawing of the beaver pond?

4 How would the drawing help a reader understand where the pond is?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose an animal that builds or makes a home. In the box, draw and label its home. Then write two sentences that name the topic, define one word, and give two facts or details that explain it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each definition. Circle three facts or details that explain what a dam does or how a labeled drawing can help a reader. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the passage say a rodent is?	A rodent is a mammal with front teeth that keep growing.
2	Write two details that explain how a beaver uses its body while working.	Beavers use strong, flat teeth to cut small trees and branches. Their wide, flat tails help them swim and balance.
3	Which four parts should be labeled in a drawing of the beaver pond?	The dam, pond, lodge, and underwater entrance should be labeled.
4	How would the drawing help a reader understand where the pond is?	It would show that the pond is behind the dam.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Drawing labels: nest, twigs, eggs. A robin nest is a cup-shaped home where a robin lays eggs and raises young. It is made from grass, twigs, and mud, and a softer grass lining helps hold the eggs.

Accept accurate animal-home topics with a labeled drawing that supports the writing. The two sentences should include a definition and at least two relevant facts or details.