

Beavers Change a Stream

Use text details to explain changes and make inferences.

4R1 "Locate and refer to relevant details and evidence when explaining what a text says explicitly/implicitly and make logical inferences. (RI&RL)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that tells what the dam did and the sentence that tells what happened to the water afterward. Circle the two summer observations that show plants or animals were using the pond area.

A New Pond at Cedar Bend

- ① At Cedar Bend Park, rangers noticed that a small stream had changed. Fast water rushed through a narrow channel, carrying soil from the banks. Few frogs or insects lived near the bare edges. In early spring, the rangers saw fresh tooth marks on willow branches. A family of beavers had moved into the park during the winter.
- ② Over several weeks, the beavers dragged branches and mud across the stream. Their dam slowed the water and formed a shallow pond behind it. The pond spread into a low, grassy area. Water soaked into the ground instead of racing away. Rangers placed signs asking visitors to stay on the trail and leave the beavers undisturbed.
- ③ By summer, green plants grew along the pond's edge. Dragonflies hovered above the water plants, and tadpoles swam in the quiet shallows. The rangers found fewer new bare spots on the stream banks after heavy rain. They decided to watch the pond each month, because the beavers had created a place where water could slow down and many living things could use the area.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What materials did the beavers drag across the stream to build their dam?

2 How did the dam change the water? Use two details from the passage.

3 What can you infer about the dam's effect on erosion of the stream banks? Use evidence from the text.

4 Why did the rangers ask visitors to stay on the trail? Make an inference and use a detail from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Make an inference about why the rangers will watch the pond each month. Write two sentences. In the first sentence, state your inference. In the second sentence, give two details that support it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that tells what the dam did and the sentence that tells what happened to the water afterward. Circle the two summer observations that show plants or animals were using the pond area. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What materials did the beavers drag across the stream to build their dam?	They dragged branches and mud across the stream.
2	How did the dam change the water? Use two details from the passage.	The dam slowed the water and formed a shallow pond. Water also soaked into the ground instead of racing away.
3	What can you infer about the dam's effect on erosion of the stream banks? Use evidence from the text.	The dam likely helped reduce erosion. The water slowed down, and rangers found fewer new bare spots after heavy rain.
4	Why did the rangers ask visitors to stay on the trail? Make an inference and use a detail from the passage.	They wanted to protect the beavers and the pond area from being disturbed. The signs asked visitors to leave the beavers undisturbed.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The rangers may want to see whether the pond keeps supporting a growing habitat. Green plants grew along its edge, while dragonflies hovered above water plants and tadpoles swam in the shallows.

Accept logical inferences that are supported by relevant details from the passage. For the open response, accept an inference about monitoring the pond's water, plants, animals, or continuing changes, with two accurate supporting details.