

Beavers Change Streams

Use details from an informational text to support analysis.

6W5 "Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. Apply grade 6 Reading standards to both literary and informational text, where applicable."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that could serve as evidence for the author's main idea. Circle the sentence that limits or qualifies that idea, so you can analyze how the evidence is used.

Beavers and Dry Streams

- ① On a dry stretch of Arizona's Verde River, researchers watched what happened after beavers returned to several side channels. The animals built dams from branches, mud, and stones. Water that had rushed through narrow channels spread into ponds and wetlands. During hot months, the ponds held water longer than nearby unmodified channels. The team wanted to know whether these changes could help plants and animals survive drought, not merely whether the dams changed the river's shape.
- ② To compare sites, the researchers measured water temperature, counted young willow shoots, and set cameras along the banks. At channels with beaver dams, the cameras recorded deer, frogs, and many kinds of birds using the wetter edges. Willow shoots also appeared more often there. The study did not prove that beavers alone caused every change, because rainfall and nearby land use could matter. Still, the repeated differences gave the team evidence that beaver ponds create useful habitat.
- ③ The findings can guide decisions, but they do not mean every stream should be dammed. A road, farm, or neighborhood may limit where water can safely spread. In some places, people install low structures that imitate part of a beaver dam, while in others they protect space for beavers to work. Before choosing a plan, land managers need local information about flooding risks, wildlife needs, and the stream's flow. The Arizona study offers evidence for careful restoration rather than a one-size-fits-all solution.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What claim does the author make about beaver ponds? Cite two details that support the claim.

2 How do the camera records and the willow-shoot counts work together as evidence?

3 Which detail supports the idea that stream-restoration plans must fit local conditions? Explain how it supports that idea.

4 Why is the statement that beavers did not prove to cause every change important when using this study as evidence?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences recommending a first step for a land manager considering beavers at a dry local stream. State a claim, use one finding from the study, and include one caution from the passage.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details that could serve as evidence for the author's main idea. Circle the sentence that limits or qualifies that idea, so you can analyze how the evidence is used. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What claim does the author make about beaver ponds? Cite two details that support the claim.	The author claims that beaver ponds create useful habitat. Cameras recorded deer, frogs, and many kinds of birds at dammed channels, and willow shoots appeared more often there.
2	How do the camera records and the willow-shoot counts work together as evidence?	The camera records show that animals used the wetter edges. The willow-shoot counts show that plants also grew more often there, so the evidence includes both animals and plants.
3	Which detail supports the idea that stream-restoration plans must fit local conditions? Explain how it supports that idea.	The passage says that roads, farms, or neighborhoods may limit where water can safely spread. This supports the idea because each location can have different safety and land-use needs.
4	Why is the statement that beavers did not prove to cause every change important when using this study as evidence?	It shows that the researchers considered other possible causes, such as rainfall and nearby land use. The evidence supports the conclusion, but it does not prove that beavers caused every difference.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A land manager should study whether beavers could help a dry local stream. In Arizona, beaver ponds held water longer during hot months, which suggests they may help during drought. The manager must also check flooding risks because water cannot safely spread near every road, farm, or neighborhood.

Accept claims supported by an accurate study finding and a relevant caution from the passage. Students may quote or paraphrase evidence, as long as their explanation connects the detail to their recommendation.