Tale or Tail?

Use clues in a text to find why the author wrote it.

2.3.R.1 "Students will determine the author's purpose (i.e., tell a story, provide information)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the passage. Underline two different facts about what a beaver's tail does to help you decide why the author wrote this text.

A Beaver's Busy Tail

1. At a pond, a beaver swims with its wide, flat tail behind it. A beaver can slap its tail on the water. The loud sound warns other beavers that danger may be near.

2. On land, a beaver can sit up to eat. Its tail rests on the ground behind it and helps it stay steady. That way, the beaver can use its front feet to hold food.

3. A beaver's tail also holds fat. That fat gives the beaver stored energy when food is hard to find. A tail can do many jobs, from helping the beaver sit to sending a loud warning across the pond.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Did the author write this passage to tell a story or to provide information? How do you know?

2. Which fact in the first paragraph helps you know the author is providing information?

3. Why does the author tell you that a beaver's tail holds fat?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence story about a child who sees a beaver by a pond. Include one true beaver fact from the passage and a made-up event, so your purpose is to tell a story.

ANSWER KEY

Tale or Tail?

GRADE 2 · 2.3.R.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read the passage. Underline two different facts about what a beaver's tail does to help you decide why the author wrote this text. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Did the author write this passage to tell a story or to provide information? How do you know?	**To provide information. The passage gives facts about how a beaver uses its tail.**
2	Which fact in the first paragraph helps you know the author is providing information?	**A beaver slaps its tail on the water to warn other beavers of danger.**
3	Why does the author tell you that a beaver's tail holds fat?	**To teach readers another way the tail helps the beaver: it stores energy.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Sam spotted a beaver by the pond. The beaver slapped its tail on the water to warn other beavers. Sam jumped at the loud sound and dropped his hat.

Accept any two distinct, accurate tail facts for the marking job. For Your Turn, look for three sentences with a fact from the passage and an invented event involving the child.