Beavers at Work

Read, mark, and summarize an informational text

3.2.R.4 "Students will summarize facts and details from an informational text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one important fact in each paragraph, then circle a detail that helps explain it. Use your marks to summarize the text in your own words.

How Beavers Change a Stream

1. On a narrow stream, a beaver piles sticks, mud, and stones across the water. This wall is called a dam. It slows the stream, so water spreads out behind it and forms a pond. Beavers keep adding material when water pushes through gaps. The dam does not need to stop every drop. It needs to hold back enough water to keep the pond deep.

2. Near the dam, beavers build a lodge from branches and mud. A lodge is a shelter, not the wall that makes the pond. Its living space sits above the water, but its entrances are underwater. Beavers swim through these entrances to avoid many land hunters. They can bring leafy branches inside to eat. In winter, they can swim under ice to reach branches stored in the pond.

3. A beaver pond changes life for other animals, too. Frogs lay eggs in the still water, and insects live among the pond plants. Ducks may feed on those insects. Water held by a dam can also soak into nearby soil, helping plants grow. One busy beaver family can turn a small stretch of stream into a home for many kinds of living things.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In one sentence, summarize how a beaver's work turns part of a stream into a pond.

2. Summarize how the lodge and pond help beavers stay safe.

3. Summarize two ways the pond helps animals other than beavers.

4. How does the dam help both beavers and nearby plants? Summarize the two effects.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences for a nature trail sign that summarize how beavers change a stream. Explain how a dam makes a pond, how beavers reach food in winter, and how the pond helps another animal.

ANSWER KEY

Beavers at Work

GRADE 3 · 3.2.R.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one important fact in each paragraph, then circle a detail that helps explain it. Use your marks to summarize the text in your own words. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In one sentence, summarize how a beaver's work turns part of a stream into a pond.	**A beaver builds a dam that slows the stream and holds back enough water to form a pond.**
2	Summarize how the lodge and pond help beavers stay safe.	**The lodge shelters beavers, and its underwater entrances let them swim through the pond to avoid many land hunters.**
3	Summarize two ways the pond helps animals other than beavers.	**Frogs lay eggs in its still water, and ducks may eat insects that live among its plants.**
4	How does the dam help both beavers and nearby plants? Summarize the two effects.	**The dam makes a deep pond where beavers can use their underwater lodge entrances. Water held by the dam can soak into nearby soil and help plants grow.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Beavers build dams from sticks, mud, and stones, slowing streams until ponds form. In winter, they swim beneath the ice to reach branches stored in the pond. Frogs lay eggs in the pond's still water.

Accept accurate summaries in the student's own words. Check that students distinguish the dam, which makes the pond, from the lodge, which provides shelter.