Beaver Pond Clues

Find the details that support each main idea.

4.2.R.1 "Students will determine the key details that support the main idea of a text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence in each paragraph that best states its main idea. Then circle two details in that paragraph that support it.

A Beaver Changes a Stream

1. A beaver dam makes a pond that can keep beavers safer. At the edge of a narrow stream, a beaver carries a branch in its teeth. Beavers pile branches, sticks, and mud across flowing water to make the dam. It slows the stream, and the water behind it grows deeper. Beavers can build a home with an entrance below the water, away from many land predators.

2. The pond also helps beavers reach their home and find food in winter. A beaver's home, called a lodge, is built from branches and mud. Beavers swim through an underwater opening to enter it. In cold places, they may store branches in the pond near the lodge. When ice covers the water, they can swim beneath it to collect bark and twigs to eat.

3. The pond is useful to animals besides beavers. Frogs can lay eggs in its still water, and ducks may rest on its surface. Insects live near the pond, giving some birds a place to find food. A dam can also spread water over nearby land, making a wet area where more plants can grow. One busy builder can change a whole streamside neighborhood.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the main idea of the whole passage? Give one detail from paragraph 1 that supports it.

2. Which two details in paragraph 2 support the idea that the pond helps beavers find food in winter?

3. What is the main idea of paragraph 3? Give two details that support it.

4. A reader says the pond matters only to beavers. Which detail from the passage shows that this idea is too narrow? Explain why.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence paragraph about one helpful place at your school. State its main idea, give two specific details that support it, and explain how one detail supports the main idea.

ANSWER KEY

Beaver Pond Clues

GRADE 4 · 4.2.R.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence in each paragraph that best states its main idea. Then circle two details in that paragraph that support it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the main idea of the whole passage? Give one detail from paragraph 1 that supports it.	**Beaver dams make ponds that help beavers and other living things. A pond's deeper water lets beavers build a home with an underwater entrance.**
2	Which two details in paragraph 2 support the idea that the pond helps beavers find food in winter?	**Beavers may store branches in the pond, and they can swim beneath the ice to collect bark and twigs.**
3	What is the main idea of paragraph 3? Give two details that support it.	**The pond helps animals besides beavers. Frogs can lay eggs in its still water, and ducks may rest on its surface.**
4	A reader says the pond matters only to beavers. Which detail from the passage shows that this idea is too narrow? Explain why.	**Frogs can lay eggs in the pond, which shows that an animal besides beavers uses it.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school library helps students find books they want to read. Its shelves hold mysteries, science books, and comics. A librarian helps students choose books that fit their interests. Having many kinds of books gives more students something they will enjoy reading.

Accept other passage details when they clearly support the stated idea. For the open task, look for a main idea, two specific supporting details, and an explanation that connects one detail to that idea.