Beaver Sentence Hunt

Read about beavers and identify three sentence structures.

6.5.R.1 "Students will recognize simple, compound, and complex sentences."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, underline one simple sentence, circle one compound sentence, and put a star beside one complex sentence.

A Beaver's Night Shift

1. At dusk, a beaver slips into a slow stream. It carries a branch in its front teeth, and its wide tail trails behind. Although the water looks calm, the beaver has work to do. Beavers build dams from branches, mud, and stones. A dam slows moving water, and a pond forms behind it. Because the water rises, the beaver can swim to new food without walking far on land. The beaver presses mud into gaps with its front paws.

2. Near the pond, a pile of branches rises above the water. The pile is a lodge, and its walls hold a dry room inside. Since the lodge entrance is underwater, many land predators cannot easily enter. Beavers use their strong teeth to cut young trees. They drag branches to the lodge, but they also store some underwater for winter. When ice covers the pond, beavers can reach those stored branches from below. Their orange front teeth grow throughout their lives.

3. Behind the dam, the new pond spreads across low ground. Water covers some plants, and other plants grow along the new shoreline. As the pond expands, frogs may lay eggs in its shallow edges. Dragonfly young live in the water. Some birds visit the pond, and they hunt insects above its surface. Although a dam can flood a trail, it can also create a wetland for wildlife. People sometimes use special pipes to control the pond's water level.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Is “At dusk, a beaver slips into a slow stream” simple, compound, or complex? Explain your choice.

2. Is “The pile is a lodge, and its walls hold a dry room inside” simple, compound, or complex? Explain your choice.

3. Is “As the pond expands, frogs may lay eggs in its shallow edges” simple, compound, or complex? Explain your choice.

4. Find the sentence in paragraph 1 that explains how rising water helps the beaver. Copy it and explain why it is complex.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three original sentences about a rainy walk to school: one simple, one compound, and one complex. Label each sentence with its type.

ANSWER KEY

Beaver Sentence Hunt

GRADE 6 · 6.5.R.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline one simple sentence, circle one compound sentence, and put a star beside one complex sentence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Is "At dusk, a beaver slips into a slow stream" simple, compound, or complex? Explain your choice.	**Simple. It has one independent clause.**
2	Is "The pile is a lodge, and its walls hold a dry room inside" simple, compound, or complex? Explain your choice.	**Compound. Two independent clauses are joined by "and."**
3	Is "As the pond expands, frogs may lay eggs in its shallow edges" simple, compound, or complex? Explain your choice.	**Complex. "As the pond expands" is a dependent clause, and "frogs may lay eggs in its shallow edges" is an independent clause.**
4	Find the sentence in paragraph 1 that explains how rising water helps the beaver. Copy it and explain why it is complex.	**"Because the water rises, the beaver can swim to new food without walking far on land." It has a dependent clause beginning with "Because" and an independent clause.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Simple: Rain tapped my umbrella.
Compound: My shoes splashed in puddles, and my backpack stayed dry.
Complex: When the bus passed, I stepped away from the curb.

For the marking task, accept any correctly identified example of each sentence type in each paragraph. For Your Turn, check that each original sentence matches its label.