

Beaver Builders

Notice how facts and sections build an informational topic.

4.T.T.2.d “Apply expository techniques that clearly introduce a topic, group paragraphs or sections to develop the topic with facts and other information (e.g., definitions, concrete details, quotations), use precise language...”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that introduces the topic, draw a box around the concluding sentence, and circle three precise words that give clear details. Precise words name exact features, actions or things instead of giving vague descriptions.

How Beavers Shape Ponds

- ① Beavers are busy mammals that change the places where they live. With broad, flat tails and webbed hind feet, they swim through ponds and streams. Their sharp front teeth keep growing throughout their lives. Beavers use these teeth to cut branches and small trees. By building with wood and mud, they create shelters called lodges.
- ② A beaver lodge sits in or beside water, often with an underwater entrance. The pond helps protect the animals from many land predators. Beavers may build a dam across a moving stream. A dam is a wall of sticks, stones, and mud that slows water. The deeper pond gives the beavers a safer place to swim, rest, and store food.
- ③ Beavers also affect other living things near their ponds. Slow water can spread into nearby land, creating wetlands where frogs, ducks, and insects find food and cover. Some people need to protect roads or fields from flooding caused by beaver dams. Still, beavers are important ecosystem builders because their ponds can provide homes for many kinds of wildlife.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1 How does the first sentence clearly introduce the topic?

2 What main idea does the second paragraph develop? Give one detail that supports it.

3 What does the precise phrase “underwater entrance” tell you about a beaver lodge?

4 How does the final sentence work as a conclusion?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two paragraphs about an animal. In paragraph 1, introduce the animal and give two concrete facts. In paragraph 2, explain its habitat, behavior, and food, using at least three precise words, and end with a concluding statement.

Your writing

Leave a clear break between paragraphs. Check every requirement in the assignment above.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that introduces the topic, draw a box around the concluding sentence, and circle three precise words that give clear details. Precise words name exact features, actions or things instead of giving vague descriptions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the first sentence clearly introduce the topic?	It names beavers and explains that they change the places where they live.
2	What main idea does the second paragraph develop? Give one detail that supports it.	It develops how beavers make and use ponds. One supporting detail is that a dam slows water and creates a deeper pond.
3	What does the precise phrase “underwater entrance” tell you about a beaver lodge?	It tells that the entrance to the lodge is below the water.
4	How does the final sentence work as a conclusion?	It states why beavers are important by explaining that their ponds provide homes for wildlife.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Sea otters are marine mammals that spend much of their lives in the ocean. Their thick fur helps keep them warm in cold water. They have strong teeth that can crush shells.

Sea otters often live near coastal kelp beds. They dive to find sea urchins, clams, and crabs. They can also use rocks as tools to open hard shells. By eating sea urchins that graze on kelp, sea otters help protect these underwater habitats.

Accept answers that identify the introduction, section focus, precise details, and conclusion using evidence from the passage. For the writing task, accept varied animals and facts if the response has two paragraphs and includes all required details. The sample's first paragraph introduces the animal and gives two facts; its second groups habitat, behavior and food and ends with a conclusion. Science background: National Park Service, Beaver ([nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/beaver.htm](https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/beaver.htm)) and Sea Otter ([nps.gov/kefj/learn/nature/sea-otter.htm](https://www.nps.gov/kefj/learn/nature/sea-otter.htm)).