

Nature's Builders

Turn reliable facts into a clear oral report.

5.C.2.A.i "Report orally on a topic or text or present an opinion in an organized manner. This includes: Using content specific vocabulary, appropriate facts and relevant descriptive details to support themes or central ideas."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the fact file. Underline facts that support the idea that beavers change their surroundings. Circle vocabulary you could explain to listeners.

Read and Use the Texts

Fact file A: Building a home

Beavers use tree trunks and branches to build dams across streams. Water collects behind a dam, forming a pond. A lodge is a beaver home. Its rounded roof is made from branches, sticks and mud, and its entrance is underwater. A dam holds back water; a lodge shelters the animals.

Fact file B: Changing a habitat

A habitat is the place where an organism lives. Beaver ponds provide habitat for many other plants and animals. Beavers can create wetlands, areas where water covers or soaks the ground. Their building changes where water flows. In some places, those changes can flood areas people use.

Source and speaking guide

These facts are adapted from National Park Service articles about beavers at Rocky Mountain National Park and Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. For your report, state a central idea, connect facts with words such as first or also, and close by returning to the idea. Explain unfamiliar terms. A precise detail, such as a rounded roof of sticks and mud, helps listeners picture the subject.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How are a dam and a lodge different? Use the vocabulary accurately.

2 Choose two facts that support the central idea that beavers change their surroundings.

3 Which detail helps a listener picture a lodge, and why is it relevant?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Prepare and deliver a short oral report about how beavers change their surroundings. Use the supplied facts; no outside research is needed.

Plan your report

Write speaking notes: a central idea, at least two supporting facts, two explained topic words, a relevant descriptive detail and a closing.

Rehearse, deliver and improve

Rehearse, then deliver your report to a partner. Ask the listener to restate your central idea and name one clear detail. Record what they heard and one change that would make your report clearer. Deliver the improved report.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Read the fact file. Underline facts that support the idea that beavers change their surroundings. Circle vocabulary you could explain to listeners. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How are a dam and a lodge different? Use the vocabulary accurately.	A dam holds back stream water to form a pond. A lodge is the beavers' home; its entrance is underwater.
2	Choose two facts that support the central idea that beavers change their surroundings.	They build dams that create ponds, and those ponds provide habitat for other organisms. Changes in water flow can also flood places people use.
3	Which detail helps a listener picture a lodge, and why is it relevant?	Its rounded roof is made of branches, sticks and mud. This describes the home beavers build rather than adding an unrelated fact.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**Possible report**

Beavers change their surroundings by building. First, their dams hold back water and create ponds. A lodge, or beaver home, has a rounded roof of branches, sticks and mud. Also, ponds provide habitat, a place to live, for other plants and animals. These changes can help wildlife, but they can also flood places people use. Beaver building affects much more than the beavers themselves.

Possible feedback and revision

My listener remembered that beavers change water flow, but confused a dam with a lodge. I will pause after each definition and explain the difference before delivering the report again.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Assess the spoken report, not only the notes. Require a central idea, relevant supporting facts, accurate vocabulary, descriptive detail and a connected closing. The listener feedback must come from an actual delivery; the sample feedback is illustrative. Accept varied supported central ideas. Source checks:

<https://www.nps.gov/romo/learn/nature/beavers.htm> and

<https://www.nps.gov/bela/learn/nature/beaver.htm>. A dam and a lodge have different functions; avoid claiming every beaver change benefits everyone. No exact sentence count is required.