

Research the Beaver Pond

Build an answer using two credited sources.

4.R "The student will conduct research and read a series of conceptually related texts on selected topics to build knowledge on grade-four content and texts, solve problems, and support cross-curricular learning..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read both sources. Underline one detail about how dams change a place. Circle one detail explaining why beavers need pond water.

Two Sources, One Research Question

Source A: Beavers

Beavers build dams using parts of shrubs and trees. A dam can create a pond that protects beavers from predators. The pond also provides habitat, or a place to live, for many other plants and animals. By changing the water and land, beavers change the places where other living things can survive.

Adapted from National Park Service, Rocky Mountain National Park, "Beavers."

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

Source B: Nature's Engineer

A beaver dam contains branches, mud and gravel. Beavers keep repairing it to maintain the water level. They need water to travel, reach food and stay safe. As a pond spreads, it can cover more land and give beavers access to new feeding areas. Building a dam is not a one-time job.

Adapted from National Park Service, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, "Nature's Engineer."

<https://home.nps.gov/gaar/learn/nature/beaver-natures-engineer.htm>

Your research tools

Both excerpts are National Park Service pages about wildlife in parks. They share a topic but emphasize different details. Use these printed sources; no website visit is needed. Your question must fit BOTH. Paraphrase each note in your own words and label it A or B. Search phrases should name your topic and its focus, such as dams and habitat. Copy each full source entry in your report.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1 How are the two sources related, and what different detail does each emphasize?

- 2 Which question fits BOTH excerpts better: "How do dams change life near water?" or "How much does a beaver weigh?" Explain.

- 3 Why are these park pages useful starting sources? What could you check before trusting a longer report?

Your own words

Plan, take notes, answer and credit

Write a question both excerpts can answer and two focused search phrases. Add one paraphrased note per source, labeled A/B. Connect the notes to answer your question, marking ideas A/B. End with credits for both sources: organization, title and web address.

This image shows a single 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

Read both sources. Underline one detail about how dams change a place. Circle one detail explaining why beavers need pond water. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How are the two sources related, and what different detail does each emphasize?	Both concern beaver dams. A emphasizes habitat for other living things; B emphasizes materials, repairs and how water helps beavers.
2	Which question fits BOTH excerpts better: "How do dams change life near water?" or "How much does a beaver weigh?" Explain.	The first fits: both describe effects of dams and ponds. Neither excerpt states a beaver's weight.
3	Why are these park pages useful starting sources? What could you check before trusting a longer report?	The named National Park Service pages address beaver habitats and behavior. Titles and links let readers check them. Both share one publisher, so comparing important claims with another knowledgeable source would help. Accept other reasonable checks.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**One possible research response**

Question: How does a beaver dam help living things? Search phrases: beaver pond habitats; beaver dams and feeding. A note: A pond gives many plants and animals a place to live. B note: Pond water lets beavers reach new feeding places. Answer: Dams create ponds that serve as habitats for other living things (A) and help beavers reach food (B).

A: National Park Service, "Beavers." <https://www.nps.gov/romo/learn/nature/beavers.htm>

B: National Park Service, "Nature's Engineer." <https://home.nps.gov/gaar/learn/nature/beaver-natures-engineer.htm>

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Require a focused question, two search phrases, paraphrased A/B notes, synthesis using both and two source credits (organization, title, URL). Judge sources by relevance, identified publisher and checkable claims; a publisher name alone is not proof. Both excerpts share one publisher. Outside searching is not required. The NPS adaptations were checked against the named pages. Accept supported wording and varied questions.