

River Builders

Reread words until every sentence makes sense.

3.F.F.1 "Oral & Silent Reading Fluency: Demonstrate oral and silent reading fluency to read grade-level texts for understanding, self-correcting as necessary to ensure accuracy and aid comprehension."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read silently to understand. Then read aloud to a partner. If a word does not sound right or make sense, look at its letters, read it again, and reread the sentence. Circle a word only if you needed to correct it. It is fine to have no circled words.

Beavers at Work

At dusk, a beaver may swim along a quiet stream, carrying a branch in its teeth. Beavers use branches, mud, and stones to build dams. A dam slows moving water and can form a pond. The pond gives the beaver a safer place to build its home, called a lodge. Its entrance is underwater, which helps keep many predators away.

Inside a lodge, beavers make a dry room above the water. They can line this room with leaves and grass. A beaver does not sleep through the whole winter. Instead, it stays active and eats bark from branches that it stored during autumn in the pond near its lodge.

Beavers also have wide, flat tails. Their tails help them steer while swimming. When a beaver senses danger, it may slap its tail on the water. The loud sound warns other beavers nearby. On land, a beaver can brace itself with its tail while it gnaws a tree. It uses its front paws to handle building materials.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** In paragraph 1, if you first read "pond" as "point," what word should you say after you reread the sentence?

- 2** In paragraph 2, why would "started" be a mistake for the word "stored"?

- 3** In paragraph 3, if you read "steer" as "stare," what should you do to fix the meaning?

- 4** The first sentence has two commas. After which two words could you make brief pauses when reading it aloud?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one sentence with a comma. Copy it and add a slash at each comma where you could pause. Read your marked sentence aloud to a partner. Correct a misread word if needed, then reread smoothly. Write one sentence telling what your chosen sentence means.

Read and explain

Copy and mark the sentence, then explain its meaning on the lines. Your partner listens to the actual reading. A correction is needed only if you misread a word.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Read silently to understand. Then read aloud to a partner. If a word does not sound right or make sense, look at its letters, read it again, and reread the sentence. Circle a word only if you needed to correct it. It is fine to have no circled words. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, if you first read "pond" as "point," what word should you say after you reread the sentence?	pond
2	In paragraph 2, why would "started" be a mistake for the word "stored"?	Stored means saved for later. The beaver eats bark from branches it saved in autumn. Check the letters in stored, then reread for meaning.
3	In paragraph 3, if you read "steer" as "stare," what should you do to fix the meaning?	Look carefully at the letters and reread steer, then reread the whole sentence. Steer means guide or control movement; the sentence explains how the tail helps in swimming.
4	The first sentence has two commas. After which two words could you make brief pauses when reading it aloud?	dusk and stream

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At dusk, / a beaver may swim along a quiet stream, / carrying a branch in its teeth. This means that near evening a beaver may carry a branch while swimming.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Listen to the actual oral reading as well as checking the written response. Notice accurate words, meaningful phrasing and self-correction when needed; do not require invented mistakes or reward speed alone. Brief pauses after dusk and stream are both supported by the first sentence. The model explains the sentence rather than merely saying rereading helps. A child may choose a different comma sentence and explain it accurately. Accept no circles when no correction was needed. This is a practice sample, not a standardized fluency score. Source facts: National Park Service, Beaver Natural History Narrative, nps.gov/glac/learn/education/beaver-natural-history-narrative.htm; Minnesota DNR, Beaver, dnr.state.mn.us/mammals/beaver.html. Tails steer and brace; front paws handle building material. Beavers eat bark from stored branches. Student prose is an original paraphrase.