

# Predict Like a Detective

Predict first. Read in stages. Use clues to confirm or correct.

**4.6.C** “make and correct or confirm predictions using text features, characteristics of genre, and structures;”

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Follow this order for the FIRST reading: look only at the title and bold headings, then answer Q1. Read Section 1, then Q2; Section 2, then Q3; Section 3, then Q4. Cover unread body text with blank paper. Reread only after Q4.

### Beavers Build a Safer Home

#### Section 1: A Pond Appears

Beavers can build a dam across a stream using branches, mud and other materials. The dam slows the flowing water. Water collects behind it and forms a pond. Some water still passes the dam. This article explains causes and effects: a beaver changes the stream, and the change affects its home. But the dam itself is not the home.

#### Section 2: A Hidden Door

A beaver lodge is a home with an entrance under the water. Beavers swim through that entrance to reach a dry living space inside. The pond helps keep the entrance underwater, making it harder for some land predators to enter. The dam and lodge do different jobs: one helps create the pond; the other gives the beavers a place to live.

#### Section 3: More Neighbors

The pond can also become a habitat for other animals. Fish and wetland birds may use this watery place. A change made by beavers can therefore affect more than the beavers themselves. Look back at the title and headings. They preview the topic and its parts; the body explains how the parts connect through causes and effects.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

- 1** BEFORE reading body text: use the title and a bold heading to predict what this informational article will explain. Name your clues.

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- 2** After Section 1 ONLY: predict why having a pond could help a beaver's home. Use the cause-and-effect explanation or the next heading as a clue.

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- 3** After Section 2: copy the main idea of your Q2 prediction. Confirm it or correct it, using a detail you just read.

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- 4** After Section 3: return to Q1. Explain whether the article confirmed your prediction or helped you correct or expand it. Use one heading and one body detail.

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YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a fourth section titled “When the Dam Breaks.” Make two connected predictions about what it might explain. Support them with clues from the article’s cause-and-effect structure. These are predictions, not new facts.

**Predict a possible next section**

Write your predictions and explain the clues behind them. A later reading would be needed to check them.

**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Follow this order for the FIRST reading: look only at the title and bold headings, then answer Q1. Read Section 1, then Q2; Section 2, then Q3; Section 3, then Q4. Cover unread body text with blank paper. Reread only after Q4. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                                                                      | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | BEFORE reading body text: use the title and a bold heading to predict what this informational article will explain. Name your clues.                          | <b>Answers vary. A reader might predict that the article explains how beavers protect a home, using the title and A Hidden Door. Accept reasonable predictions tied to actual features; do not grade whether the prediction later proves correct.</b>            |
| 2 | After Section 1 ONLY: predict why having a pond could help a beaver's home. Use the cause-and-effect explanation or the next heading as a clue.               | <b>Answers vary. The dam causes a pond to form; A Hidden Door suggests the pond may hide or protect an entrance. Accept another reasonable prediction with a supplied clue.</b>                                                                                  |
| 3 | After Section 2: copy the main idea of your Q2 prediction. Confirm it or correct it, using a detail you just read.                                            | <b>A student who predicted protection can confirm it using the underwater entrance. A student who predicted that beavers live inside the dam should correct that idea: the lodge is their home. Assess the match to the student's actual earlier prediction.</b> |
| 4 | After Section 3: return to Q1. Explain whether the article confirmed your prediction or helped you correct or expand it. Use one heading and one body detail. | <b>Responses depend on Q1. More Neighbors and the detail about fish or birds may expand a prediction focused only on beavers. Accept confirmation, correction or expansion with the required actual clues.</b>                                                   |

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

I predict that the pond could become shallower if a break lets water flow away faster. Section 1 says the dam slows water and helps form the pond. Section 2 says the pond helps keep the entrance underwater, so I predict that the lodge entrance might become less protected. I would need to read the new section to check these predictions.

### **TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES**

Sequence matters: give students blank cover paper and have them keep unread body sections covered. Q1 precedes body reading, Q2 follows only Section 1, Q3 follows Section 2, and Q4 follows Section 3. The second reading comes last. Accept reasonable original predictions and evidence-based changes; do not replace earlier predictions after reading. The imagined fourth heading has no supplied body, so its predictions remain unverified. Background paraphrased from National Park Service, Build a Beaver Dam: <https://www.nps.gov/articles/buildabeaverdam.htm> and American Beaver: <https://www.nps.gov/zion/learn/nature/beaver.htm>.