

# Dam Builders Compared

Compare a story and facts about beaver dams.

**3.RL.3.B** "Compare and contrast details in paired literary and informational nonfiction texts including their treatment of similar themes, topics, and patterns of events."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

**YOUR JOB** Choose any two story details that match facts. Mark one pair with 1 and the other with 2 beside the matching words in both texts. More than one choice is possible.

### A Beaver Dam Pair

#### Literary Text

On a chilly morning, Maya heard water rushing beside the trail. A beaver was pushing a branch toward a pile of sticks. "That dam is getting bigger," Maya said. She watched the beaver pat mud into a gap. By noon, the rushing sound had softened, and a quiet pond spread behind the dam.

Later that afternoon, Maya returned with her sketchbook. The pond held still water, and a duck floated near tall grass. Maya drew the dam, then noticed the beaver carrying another branch. She understood that the animal was changing the stream. Maya left quietly so the beaver could keep working without being scared near the pond.

#### Informational Text

Beavers build dams with branches, stones, and mud. A dam slows moving water and can form a pond behind it. The pond may give beavers a safer place to swim and keep food. Other animals, such as ducks, frogs, and fish, may use the pond too. Beavers often repair gaps when water moves through the dam.

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

**1** How do both texts explain what a beaver dam does to water?

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**2** Choose one beaver action from the story. Name a matching fact and explain the connection. More than one answer is possible.

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**3** How is the Literary Text different from the Informational Text?

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**4** How does each text describe ducks near the pond?

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YOUR TURN

\_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Write three sentences comparing the two texts. In the first sentence, tell one way they are alike. In the second, tell one difference in how they share information. In the third, connect one story event to a matching fact.

**Use your own words**

Write clearly. Check that your ideas and word choices make sense.

**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Choose any two story details that match facts. Mark one pair with 1 and the other with 2 beside the matching words in both texts. More than one choice is possible. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                                    | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | How do both texts explain what a beaver dam does to water?                                                                  | <b>Both show that a dam slows the moving water and forms or makes a pond behind it.</b>                                                                                                             |
| 2 | Choose one beaver action from the story. Name a matching fact and explain the connection. More than one answer is possible. | <b>Examples: Carrying or pushing a branch matches building with branches. Patting mud into a gap matches repairing gaps or using mud to build dams. Accept one accurate action-fact connection.</b> |
| 3 | How is the Literary Text different from the Informational Text?                                                             | <b>The Literary Text tells what Maya sees during a day, while the Informational Text gives general facts about beavers and dams.</b>                                                                |
| 4 | How does each text describe ducks near the pond?                                                                            | <b>The Literary Text tells about one duck floating near tall grass. The Informational Text says ducks may use the pond.</b>                                                                         |

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

Both texts show a beaver working on a dam that changes the stream. The Literary Text tells Maya's observations in time order, while the Informational Text gives general facts about beavers. Maya sees the beaver put mud into a gap, which matches the fact that beavers repair gaps in a dam.

### **TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES**

Accept any two distinct accurate story-fact pairs for the marking task. Examples: moving a branch / building with branches; patting mud into a gap / repairing gaps or using mud; quiet pond behind the dam / slowing water and forming a pond; duck floating / other animals using the pond. The numbered pairs may appear anywhere beside the relevant words, without crossing lines through the reading.

Question 2 accepts any supported beaver action-fact match, not only the sample about mud. The final three sentences need one similarity, one difference in how the texts treat the topic, and one supported event-fact connection. Maya and her observations are fictional; the general beaver facts are nonfiction.

Reference: National Park Service, Beavers, Rocky Mountain National Park

([nps.gov/romo/learn/nature/beavers.htm](https://nps.gov/romo/learn/nature/beavers.htm)), and Nature's Engineer, Gates of the Arctic

([nps.gov/gaar/learn/nature/beaver-natures-engineer.htm](https://nps.gov/gaar/learn/nature/beaver-natures-engineer.htm)).