Beaver Word Tracks

Use syllable patterns to read and spell longer words.

3.FFR.3.B "Use knowledge of syllabication and syllable types to decode and encode words."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every two-syllable word in the passage. Add a slash between its syllables to show how you can read each part.

Busy Beaver

1. On a quiet pond, a beaver begins work at sunset. It carries branches to the water and packs mud between them. The animal builds a dam that slows the stream. Behind the dam, a deep pool can form. This pool gives the beaver a safer place to rest, swim, and store food during winter months.

2. Beavers have special teeth for cutting wood. Their front teeth keep growing, so the animals gnaw on trees often. A beaver may drag a willow branch across the bank. Then it uses its wide, flat tail to slap the water. That sound can warn other beavers when danger is near. They listen closely for danger.

3. Inside a lodge, the beaver family stays dry and warm. The entrance is under water, which helps keep many wild animals away. In autumn, beavers collect small sticks and place them near the lodge. When ice covers the pond, the family can eat this stored food. A busy beaver prepares carefully for cold weather ahead.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, divide sunset into syllables. What syllable type is each part?

2. In paragraph 2, divide cutting into syllables. What tells you that the first syllable is closed?

3. In paragraph 1, divide safer into syllables. What syllable type is its first syllable, sa?

4. In paragraph 3, divide under into syllables. What type is the first syllable?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about animals. In each sentence, use a two-syllable word that is not in the passage. One word must have a closed first syllable, and the other must have an open first syllable. Underline each word, add a slash between its syllables, and write C or O beside it.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 3 · 3.FFR.3.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline every two-syllable word in the passage. Add a slash between its syllables to show how you can read each part. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, divide sunset into syllables. What syllable type is each part?	**sun/set; both syllables are closed.**
2	In paragraph 2, divide cutting into syllables. What tells you that the first syllable is closed?	**cut/ting; the first syllable ends with a consonant, t, and has a short u sound.**
3	In paragraph 1, divide safer into syllables. What syllable type is its first syllable, sa?	**sa/fer; sa is an open syllable ending in a vowel with the long a sound.**
4	In paragraph 3, divide under into syllables. What type is the first syllable?	**un/der; un is a closed syllable.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A rab/bit (C) hops past a log. A ti/ger (O) trots through tall grass.

Accept correct syllable breaks and type labels, including equivalent markings such as slashes or dots. For Part 3, accept two sensible animal sentences with new, correctly divided two-syllable words, one with a closed first syllable and one with an open first syllable. In safer, divide the printed letters sa/fer: sa is open. Safe is the base word before adding -er, not a printed syllable of safer. Have learners read the divided words and blend them into whole words; support and recheck unfamiliar examples.