The Beaver's Changes

Trace how one change leads to another.

3.RI.3 "Explain the relationship between events, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical procedures text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle three beaver actions that affect the water, then underline a change in the water caused by each action.

How a Beaver Makes a Pond

1. A beaver can turn a narrow stream into a pond. It may live in a home called a lodge, with an entrance below the water. A deep pond helps keep that entrance hidden from animals that might hunt the beaver. But a shallow stream may not cover the entrance well. To raise the water, the beaver builds a dam across the stream. This change begins when the beaver gathers wood nearby.

2. The beaver cuts small trees with its strong front teeth. It drags branches to the stream and pushes them into place. Then it packs sticks, stones, and mud into the gaps. The dam does not stop every drop of water. Instead, it slows the stream. Water gathers behind the dam, so the pond grows deeper. As the water rises, it covers the entrance to the lodge.

3. If fast water pulls sticks from the dam, a gap opens. More water can run through, and the pond level may fall. The beaver packs fresh branches and mud into the gap to slow the water again. As the pond fills, water can spread over the low banks. The soggy ground can support plants that grow well in wet places. The beaver's repairs can affect more than its own home.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does the beaver build a dam when the stream is shallow?

2. How does packing sticks, stones, and mud into the gaps change the stream?

3. How does the deeper pond help the beaver at its lodge?

4. How can the growing pond change which plants grow on the low banks?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a long storm pulls several sticks out of the beaver's dam. Write three sentences explaining what could happen next to the pond, what the beaver could do, and how that action could change the pond again.

ANSWER KEY

The Beaver's Changes

GRADE 3 · 3.RI.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle three beaver actions that affect the water, then underline a change in the water caused by each action. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does the beaver build a dam when the stream is shallow?	**The shallow water may not cover the lodge entrance, so the beaver builds a dam to raise the water.**
2	How does packing sticks, stones, and mud into the gaps change the stream?	**It helps the dam slow the stream, so water gathers behind it.**
3	How does the deeper pond help the beaver at its lodge?	**The deeper water covers the lodge entrance and helps hide it from animals that might hunt the beaver.**
4	How can the growing pond change which plants grow on the low banks?	**Pond water can spread over the banks, making the ground soggy enough for plants that grow well in wet places.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Water would run through the new gaps, so the pond could become shallower. The beaver could pack fresh branches and mud into the broken places. That repair would slow the water again, helping the pond fill back up.

Accept responses that connect each change to a cause in the passage. For the marking job, accept any three beaver actions paired with water changes those actions cause.