Branch to Pond

Read a source and save its key facts as brief notes.

3.W.8.a "Take brief notes on sources."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one fact in each paragraph that you would save as a brief note. Circle two or three key words in each underlined fact to help you write the note without copying the whole sentence.

What Beavers Change

1. At dusk, a beaver swims along a stream. Its wide, flat tail helps it steer in the water. Webbed back feet push it forward. On land, the beaver cuts small trees with its sharp front teeth. It eats bark and leaves, then carries branches back to the stream. Its front teeth keep growing, so chewing helps wear them down.

2. A beaver places branches and mud across a stream to make a dam. Water slows behind the dam and forms a pond. In the pond, a beaver family may live in a lodge made of sticks and mud. The lodge has an entrance below the water's surface. This hidden doorway helps the family stay away from animals that hunt them.

3. A beaver pond changes the land around it. Fish and frogs can find shelter in the water. Birds may feed near the pond, too. When water spreads over dry ground, some trees may die, but new wet places form around the pond. Beavers do not plan homes for other animals. Their work makes new places where many living things can survive.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Write two brief notes about body parts that help a beaver move in water.

2. Write one brief note about what a beaver eats and one about why it chews.

3. Write two brief notes that explain how a beaver makes a pond.

4. Write two brief notes about how a beaver pond changes nearby ground and trees.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three brief notes for a park sign called "From Branch to Pond." Use one fact from each paragraph to show what the beaver brings, where its family stays, and how other animals use the pond. Use short phrases, not full sentences.

ANSWER KEY

Branch to Pond

GRADE 3 · 3.W.8.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one fact in each paragraph that you would save as a brief note. Circle two or three key words in each underlined fact to help you write the note without copying the whole sentence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Write two brief notes about body parts that help a beaver move in water.	**Flat tail helps steer. Webbed back feet push it forward.**
2	Write one brief note about what a beaver eats and one about why it chews.	**Eats bark and leaves. Chewing wears down its growing front teeth.**
3	Write two brief notes that explain how a beaver makes a pond.	**Places branches and mud across a stream. The dam slows water, forming a pond.**
4	Write two brief notes about how a beaver pond changes nearby ground and trees.	**Water spreads over dry ground and makes new wet places. Some trees may die.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Brings: branches to the stream
Stays: family lodge with an underwater entrance
Helps: fish and frogs find shelter

Accept accurate, short notes in students' own words. For Part 3, look for one relevant fact from each paragraph in the requested order.