

Busy Beaver Builders

Find how facts and details build one clear idea.

3.12.B “compose informational texts, including brief compositions that convey information about a topic, using a clear central idea and genre characteristics and craft;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that states the main point of the text, then circle three details that explain how beavers change their home area.

Beavers at Work

- ① Beavers are busy animals that change the places where they live. Using their sharp front teeth, they cut small trees and branches. They carry mud, sticks, and stones to a stream. Then they stack these materials to build a dam. A dam slows or stops the water, making a pond behind it. The pond gives beavers a safer place to swim and rest.
- ② Beavers also build homes called lodges. A lodge may sit in the pond or along its edge. Its walls are made of sticks and mud, and its entrance is often underwater. This hidden entrance can help keep some land animals out. Inside, beavers have a dry space above the water. They use the lodge for shelter, especially during cold weather.
- ③ Beaver dams can affect other living things, too. The pond behind a dam can become a home for fish, frogs, ducks, and water plants. Wet ground near the pond may help some plants grow. Over time, a beaver family may repair its dam when water leaks through. By building and fixing dams, beavers shape the water and land around their home.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the central idea of the text? Write one sentence.

2 Write two details that support the central idea.

3 How does the author organize the information in the three paragraphs?

4 What does the word "Then" in the first paragraph show?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a title and a three-sentence informational paragraph about how beavers change a stream area. State a clear central idea in the first sentence, then include two accurate details from the passage in the next two sentences. Use an order word such as first, then, next, or over time.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that states the main point of the text, then circle three details that explain how beavers change their home area. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the central idea of the text? Write one sentence.	They change the water and land around them.
2	Write two details that support the central idea.	Beavers build dams that make ponds, and they repair dams when water leaks through.
3	How does the author organize the information in the three paragraphs?	The text explains dams first, lodges next, and then the effects of dams.
4	What does the word "Then" in the first paragraph show?	It shows the order of the beavers' building steps.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Beavers Shape Streams Beavers change stream areas by building dams. First, they stack sticks, mud, and stones to slow the water and make a pond. Over time, they repair leaks in the dam, and the pond can provide a home for fish and frogs.

Accept central-idea statements that explain that beavers change the water and land where they live. For the paragraph, accept a relevant title, three complete sentences, a clear first-sentence central idea, two accurate passage details, and an order word.