

Builders of the Pond

Read closely, collect evidence, and respond to an informational text.

3.7.B “write a response to a literary or informational text that demonstrates an understanding of a text;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that tells the biggest idea of the article. Circle three details that show how beaver dams change a habitat, so you can use them in a written response.

How Beavers Shape Habitats

- ① Beavers are busy builders that live near ponds, streams, and rivers. With their strong teeth, they cut small trees and branches. They carry mud, sticks, and stones to make dams across moving water. A dam slows the water and can create a deep pond. The pond gives beavers a safer place to build their homes, called lodges.
- ② Beaver dams also affect other living things. The quiet water behind a dam may become a home for fish, frogs, turtles, and water birds. Plants can grow along the pond's edge. These plants provide food and hiding places for animals. During dry times, a beaver pond may hold water longer than a fast-moving stream. This can help nearby animals find water.
- ③ People sometimes worry that beaver dams will flood a trail or block water from reaching a field. Park workers study each place before deciding what to do. They may move a beaver family only when there is a serious problem. In many places, workers protect the dams because the ponds can help many animals. Beavers show how one animal's work can change an entire habitat.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the central idea of the article?

2 What are two ways a beaver pond can help animals? Use details from the article.

3 Why do park workers study each place before deciding what to do with a beaver dam?

4 Why does the author include the problem of flooding in paragraph 3?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 3-sentence response to the article. Explain the most important idea, include two details from the text, and tell whether beaver dams should usually be protected.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that tells the biggest idea of the article. Circle three details that show how beaver dams change a habitat, so you can use them in a written response. 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 article?	Beavers build dams that create ponds and change habitats for many animals.
2	What are two ways a beaver pond can help animals? Use details from the article.	It can provide homes for animals such as fish and frogs, and it can hold water longer during dry times.
3	Why do park workers study each place before deciding what to do with a beaver dam?	They need to find out whether the dam is causing a serious problem, such as flooding a trail or blocking water from a field.
4	Why does the author include the problem of flooding in paragraph 3?	It shows that beaver dams can cause problems in some places, even though their ponds can help many animals.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Beaver dams should usually be protected because they create ponds that help many living things. The quiet water can give fish, frogs, turtles, and birds a home, and plants along the edge offer food and hiding places. Workers should still study dams near trails or fields, since flooding can cause serious problems.

Accept responses that state a clear understanding of how beaver dams change habitats and use accurate text details. For the open response, accept either opinion if it is supported by two relevant details from the article.