

Pond Builders

Find the central idea and the details that prove it.

3.9.D.i “the central idea with supporting evidence;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that tells the central idea. Then number three details that support that idea.

How Beavers Change a Place

- ① Beavers build dams that create ponds and change the places where they live. They use their strong front teeth to cut small trees and branches. Then they pile wood, mud, and stones across a stream. This dam slows the water and can make a pond. A beaver family works mostly at night, when the animals are safer from many predators.
- ② The new pond made by a dam can help other living things. Fish may find quieter water behind the dam. Frogs can lay eggs in shallow pond edges. Ducks and other birds may rest or feed near the water. As plants grow around the pond, insects and small animals can find food and shelter there, too.
- ③ Beavers also have body parts that help them build and swim. Their broad, flat tails can help them steer in water. Their webbed back feet push them through ponds. Thick fur keeps their bodies warm in cold water. By building dams and using these body parts, beavers can live well in watery places for much of the year.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the central idea of the passage?

2 What are two details that show how beavers build a dam?

3 How does the second paragraph support the central idea?

4 Choose one body part from the third paragraph. How does it help a beaver live near water?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a different animal that changes the place where it lives. Write one central idea sentence and three detail sentences that support it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that tells the central idea. Then number three details that support that idea. 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 passage?	Beavers build dams that make ponds, changing the habitat for beavers and other living things.
2	What are two details that show how beavers build a dam?	They cut small trees and branches with their teeth, and they pile wood, mud, and stones across a stream.
3	How does the second paragraph support the central idea?	It explains that ponds made by dams can provide water, food, or shelter for fish, frogs, birds, insects, and small animals.
4	Choose one body part from the third paragraph. How does it help a beaver live near water?	Answers may include: A broad, flat tail helps a beaver steer in water; webbed back feet push it through ponds; thick fur keeps it warm in cold water.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Earthworms improve the soil where plants grow. They make tunnels that let air and water move through the soil. They eat dead plant bits and leave waste that adds nutrients. Their tunnels also help plant roots spread.

Accept central ideas that state the passage is mainly about beavers building dams and changing watery habitats. Accept supporting details that are accurate, relevant, and drawn from the passage; the open response should include one central idea and three matching details.