

Pond Change Makers

Use important details to identify what a text is mostly saying.

4.6.G "evaluate details read to determine key ideas;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details in each paragraph that help you identify its key idea. Then number the three details that best show how beaver dams affect both animals and people.

Beavers Build More Than Homes

- ① Beavers are sometimes called nature's builders because they change streams with branches, mud, and stones. A beaver dam slows moving water and can create a pond behind it. The pond gives beavers a safer place to build a lodge, their home. Deep water around the lodge can help protect the animals from land predators nearby.
- ② Beaver ponds affect more than beavers. Slow, shallow edges may give frogs a place to lay eggs, while pond water can offer shelter to fish and insects. Trees near a pond may die if their roots stay underwater for too long. Woodpeckers and other animals can later use the dead trees for nesting or finding food.
- ③ People sometimes remove old beaver dams because water can flood a trail, road, or field. Before deciding what to do, land managers study the site. They may move a beaver family, place a pipe through a dam to control water level, or leave the dam alone. Their choice depends on both human needs and the habitat created by the pond.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the key idea of paragraph 1? Use two details from the paragraph to support your answer.

2 What key idea do the details about frogs, fish, insects, dead trees, and woodpeckers support in paragraph 2?

3 Why does the author include the detail that managers may place a pipe through a dam?

4 What problem and what benefit must land managers consider when deciding what to do with a beaver dam?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence recommendation to a land manager about a beaver dam near a trail. State what the manager should do, then use two details from the passage to explain your choice.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details in each paragraph that help you identify its key idea. Then number the three details that best show how beaver dams affect both animals and people. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the key idea of paragraph 1? Use two details from the paragraph to support your answer.	Beaver dams create safer homes for beavers. The dams create ponds, and deep water around a lodge helps protect beavers from land predators.
2	What key idea do the details about frogs, fish, insects, dead trees, and woodpeckers support in paragraph 2?	Beaver ponds change the habitat and provide food, shelter, or nesting places for many kinds of animals.
3	Why does the author include the detail that managers may place a pipe through a dam?	The detail shows that managers can control the water level instead of only removing or leaving a dam, which can help balance human needs and pond habitat.
4	What problem and what benefit must land managers consider when deciding what to do with a beaver dam?	They must consider flooding that can harm a trail, road, or field and the habitat the pond provides for beavers and other animals.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The land manager should place a pipe through the dam to control the water level. This could help prevent flooding on a trail, road, or field. It could also keep some pond habitat for frogs, fish, insects, and other animals.

Accept key ideas that are supported by accurate, relevant details from the passage. For the open task, accept any reasonable recommendation that includes exactly three sentences and uses two passage details to explain the choice.