

Pond Builders

Connect details to form a larger idea.

4.6.H "synthesize information to create new understanding; and"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show how a beaver dam changes water. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside details that show how those water changes affect living things.

How Beavers Change a Place

- ① Beavers build dams from branches, mud, and stones. A dam slows a stream, causing water to spread into a pond. The pond can be deep enough to protect beavers from some predators. Beavers also build lodges, homes with underwater entrances. They do not set out to redesign a forest, but their building work changes where water moves.
- ② Once a pond forms, new plants often grow along its wet edges. Frogs may lay eggs in the calm water, and ducks can rest or feed there. Fish may use deeper pools, especially when a stream would otherwise be shallow. These animals are not using the dam in the same way, yet each benefits from the water conditions the dam creates.
- ③ Heavy rain can sometimes wash out a dam, sending pond water quickly downstream. Then the pond may shrink, and animals that used its calm, deep water must find other places. Over time, beavers may repair the dam or build elsewhere. By linking these details, readers can see that one animal's actions can shape a habitat for many living things.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How do the dam slowing the stream and the pond having calm, deep water work together to help frogs and fish?

2 What new understanding do you get by connecting the beavers' need for a safe lodge with the other animals' use of the pond?

3 What is likely to happen to frogs, ducks, and fish if heavy rain washes out a dam? Use ideas from paragraphs 2 and 3.

4 Use one detail from paragraph 1 and one detail from paragraph 3 to explain why a beaver dam can affect more than the beaver.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly two sentences that explain why a beaver can be called a habitat builder. Use one detail from paragraph 1 and one different detail from paragraph 2 or 3, and explain how the details connect.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show how a beaver dam changes water. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside details that show how those water changes affect living things. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the dam slowing the stream and the pond having calm, deep water work together to help frogs and fish?	The dam slows and spreads the stream water into a pond, creating calm water for frog eggs and deeper pools for fish.
2	What new understanding do you get by connecting the beavers' need for a safe lodge with the other animals' use of the pond?	Beavers build structures that help protect themselves, and those structures also create useful habitat for other animals.
3	What is likely to happen to frogs, ducks, and fish if heavy rain washes out a dam? Use ideas from paragraphs 2 and 3.	They may need to find other places because the pond can shrink and no longer provide as much calm or deep water.
4	Use one detail from paragraph 1 and one detail from paragraph 3 to explain why a beaver dam can affect more than the beaver.	A dam changes where stream water moves by making a pond, and if it washes out, animals that used the pond must find other places.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A beaver acts like a habitat builder because its dam slows a stream and spreads water into a pond. That pond gives frogs calm water for eggs, so one beaver's work creates a useful place for another animal.

Accept responses that combine details from the required paragraphs into a broader idea about how beaver actions change habitat. In Part 3, check for exactly two sentences, two required details, and a clear connection between them.