

Ponds With Purpose

Annotate an informational text to track main ideas and supporting details.

4.7.E “interact with sources in meaningful ways such as notetaking, annotating, freewriting, or illustrating;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence in each paragraph that gives its main idea. Circle two details in each paragraph that support that idea, so you can use your marks to write helpful notes.

How Beavers Shape Their Homes

- ① Beavers build dams that turn moving water into safer ponds. These large rodents live near ponds, streams, and lakes. With sharp front teeth, they cut branches and small trees. They carry mud, stones, and sticks to build dams across a stream. A dam slows the water and can create a pond. Deep water around their homes protects beavers from many land predators.
- ② A beaver lodge gives a family a protected place to live. In the pond, beavers build the lodge from branches and mud. It may have rooms above the water and an underwater entrance. This hidden entrance makes it harder for some animals to reach the beavers. During cold weather, the family stays inside and eats stored branches from nearby underwater piles. Thick fur and fat help beavers stay warm.
- ③ Beaver ponds can change habitats for other living things. The slower water can spread into wet places where frogs, fish, insects, and water birds find food or shelter. Pond water may also soak into the ground, which can help land hold water during dry times. When heavy rain falls, a dam can slow some rushing water, though it cannot stop every flood.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Look at your underline in paragraph 1. Write a 5- to 8-word margin note that tells the paragraph's main idea.

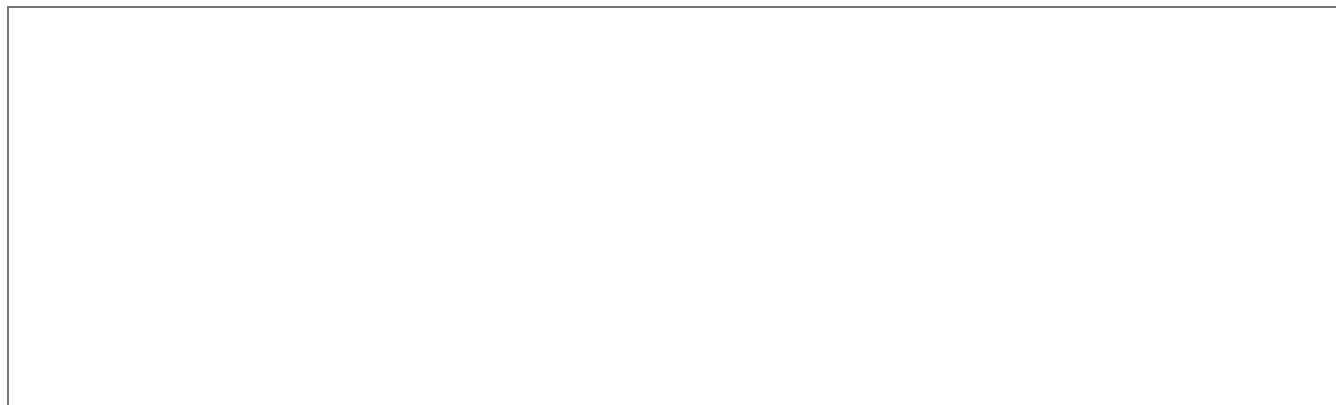
2 Look at your circles in paragraph 2. Write two details that show how a lodge helps protect beavers.

3 Write a 6- to 10-word margin note for paragraph 3.

4 Use your marks to explain in one sentence how paragraph 3 connects to paragraph 1.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Create an annotation for paragraph 3. Draw a simple symbol that represents one effect of beaver ponds, write an 8- to 12-word caption explaining the effect, and underline the sentence that supports your caption.



PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence in each paragraph that gives its main idea. Circle two details in each paragraph that support that idea, so you can use your marks to write helpful notes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Look at your underline in paragraph 1. Write a 5- to 8-word margin note that tells the paragraph's main idea.	Beaver dams make safer ponds.
2	Look at your circles in paragraph 2. Write two details that show how a lodge helps protect beavers.	It has an underwater entrance. The hidden entrance makes it harder for some animals to reach the beavers.
3	Write a 6- to 10-word margin note for paragraph 3.	Beaver ponds help animals and land manage water.
4	Use your marks to explain in one sentence how paragraph 3 connects to paragraph 1.	Paragraph 1 says dams make ponds, and paragraph 3 shows that ponds help animals and the land.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Sketch: a frog beside a pond. Caption: Beaver ponds provide frogs with places to find food and shelter. Underlined sentence: "The slower water can spread into wet places where frogs, fish, insects, and water birds find food or shelter."

For the markings, students should underline the first sentence of each paragraph and circle any two accurate supporting details in each paragraph. Accept different accurate margin notes, connections, symbols, and captions that are supported by the passage and meet the stated length requirements.