

Dam Detectives

Use predictions and evidence to monitor understanding.

5.6 "Comprehension skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts. The student uses metacognitive skills to both develop and deepen comprehension of increasingly complex texts..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Before you read, predict how the beaver dam might affect Willow Creek. Then underline two details that confirm or change your prediction, and circle one detail that shows a problem still remains.

Beavers at Willow Creek

- ① When residents of Riverton saw fresh tooth marks on willow trees beside Willow Creek, they knew beavers had returned. Some people worried that the animals would flood a walking trail. Others hoped the beavers might help the dry creek. To understand what could happen, the town's water team watched the new dam and measured the stream each week.
- ② A beaver dam slows moving water. Behind the dam, water spreads into a pond and can soak into nearby soil. The pond also catches mud and leaves that would otherwise move downstream. After a month, the team found that the creek below the dam still flowed, but it moved more slowly and carried less muddy water.
- ③ The changes did not solve every problem. During heavy rain, water reached the edge of the trail, so the town added a small bridge instead of removing the dam. Frogs and dragonflies appeared near the pond, and taller grasses grew in the wetter soil. The team concluded that the beavers were creating a wetland while the town needed to manage the trail safely.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What purpose for reading would help you decide whether Riverton should keep the beaver dam?

2 At the end of paragraph 1, what could you predict about the dry creek? What sentence in paragraph 2 confirms or corrects that prediction?

3 Why can you infer that the town chose to keep the dam instead of removing it? Use two details from the passage.

4 What key idea connects the effects on the water, plants and animals, and walking trail?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences. In sentence 1, ask a question about how the dam could affect Willow Creek. In sentence 2, make a prediction based on the title and paragraph 1. In sentence 3, tell whether the passage confirmed or changed your prediction, using two accurate details from the passage.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Before you read, predict how the beaver dam might affect Willow Creek. Then underline two details that confirm or change your prediction, and circle one detail that shows a problem still remains. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What purpose for reading would help you decide whether Riverton should keep the beaver dam?	To learn how the dam affects the creek, the nearby land, and the walking trail.
2	At the end of paragraph 1, what could you predict about the dry creek? What sentence in paragraph 2 confirms or corrects that prediction?	A reader could predict that the dam may help the dry creek keep water. The confirming sentence is: "After a month, the team found that the creek below the dam still flowed, but it moved more slowly and carried less muddy water."
3	Why can you infer that the town chose to keep the dam instead of removing it? Use two details from the passage.	The town thought the dam's benefits were worth managing. It created a pond and wetter soil, and frogs, dragonflies, and grasses appeared near it.
4	What key idea connects the effects on the water, plants and animals, and walking trail?	The beavers changed the creek into a wetland that helped water, plants, and animals, but the town still had to keep the trail safe.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

How could the beaver dam change Willow Creek and the land nearby? I predicted that the dam would hold water and help the dry creek. My prediction was confirmed because water spread into a pond and the creek below the dam still flowed.

Accept reasonable predictions that are based on the title or paragraph 1 and supported or revised with accurate passage details. For the open response, check for exactly three sentences, a relevant question, a prediction, and two accurate details in the final sentence.