

Beaver Builders

Use brief marks to hold onto key ideas during independent reading.

6.4 "Developing and sustaining foundational language skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking--self-sustained reading. The student reads grade-appropriate texts independently..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, underline one sentence in each paragraph that gives its main idea, then number your underlined sentences 1, 2, and 3. These marks help you pause, return, and remember what you have read.

How Beavers Change Waterways

- ① Beavers are often called ecosystem engineers because their work changes the flow of water. Using their front teeth, they cut branches and carry mud, stones, and plants to build dams across small streams. Water slows behind a dam and may spread into a pond or wetland. These deeper pools can give fish, frogs, and young birds places to feed or hide. A dam is not permanent, however. Floods, falling trees, and moving ice can damage it.
- ② A beaver's home, called a lodge, is often built in a pond beside its dam. The lodge may have underwater entrances, which make it harder for many land predators to enter. Inside, a dry chamber holds the family and stored food. In autumn, beavers place fresh branches underwater near the lodge. When ice covers the pond, they can swim out from the lodge and eat bark from these branches. Their building work helps them survive winter in places with cold weather.
- ③ Beaver ponds can change a whole neighborhood of plants and animals. Wet ground around a pond may support water-loving plants, insects, and birds. The pond can also store water and slow some floodwater after heavy rain. Yet a dam can flood a trail, a road, or land used by people. Instead of removing every dam, some communities install devices that control water levels while allowing beavers to remain. Studying both benefits and problems helps people make careful choices about these busy animals.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Look at your number 1 mark. Copy the sentence you underlined for paragraph 1.

2 Use your number 2 mark to write a 7-12-word margin note that captures paragraph 2's main idea.

3 You want to check a benefit and a problem caused by dams. Which numbered paragraph would you return to? Name one benefit and one problem from it.

4 Reread paragraph 3. What does the text say studying both benefits and problems helps people do?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a grade-appropriate text that you want to read, and read it independently for at least 15 minutes. Write its title, three 3-8 word labels for three places you stopped, and a 25-35 word note explaining where you are in the text and what matters so far.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

As you read, underline one sentence in each paragraph that gives its main idea, then number your underlined sentences 1, 2, and 3. These marks help you pause, return, and remember what you have read. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Look at your number 1 mark. Copy the sentence you underlined for paragraph 1.	Beavers are often called ecosystem engineers because their work changes the flow of water.
2	Use your number 2 mark to write a 7-12-word margin note that captures paragraph 2's main idea.	Beavers use lodges and stored branches to survive winter.
3	You want to check a benefit and a problem caused by dams. Which numbered paragraph would you return to? Name one benefit and one problem from it.	Paragraph 3. A benefit is that ponds can store water or support plants, insects, and birds. A problem is that dams can flood a trail, road, or land used by people.
4	Reread paragraph 3. What does the text say studying both benefits and problems helps people do?	Make careful choices about beavers.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Text: The Wild Robot Labels: Robot wakes on an island; Animals fear and watch Roz; Roz learns to survive

Note: Roz is alone on an island, so she watches animals and learns from them. Her careful observations matter because they help her survive and begin to belong.

For Question 1, accept another reasonable main-idea sentence if the student can explain the choice. For Question 2, accept a 7-12 word note about the lodge, stored branches, or winter survival; for Question 3, accept any stated paragraph 3 benefit and the flooding problem.