

Beavers Build Evidence

Use details from an informational text to support clear responses.

6.6.C “use text evidence to support an appropriate response;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details in each paragraph that could support a response about what beaver dams do or how people should manage them. Number your underlined details 1 through 6 so you can point to evidence.

Beavers and Busy Streams

- ① Beavers build dams from branches, mud, and stones. When a dam slows a stream, water spreads into nearby soil and forms ponds or wetlands. These wet areas can give frogs, fish, insects, and water birds places to live. In western North America, some land managers have placed small structures in streams to copy the way beaver dams slow water. The structures do not replace beavers, but they can help damaged streams begin to recover over time.
- ② During dry seasons, ponds behind dams may hold water longer than fast-moving channels do. Plants that grow in and beside these ponds can create green, moist areas. Researchers have observed that some beaver-created wetlands stayed wetter than nearby land during droughts and wildfires. This does not mean every wetland stops a fire. However, wetter ground may burn less intensely, and it can offer some animals a place to shelter. The effects depend on weather, terrain, and the size of the wetland.
- ③ Bringing beavers back is not simple in every place. A dam can flood a road, a field, or a homeowner's land. Instead of removing every dam, some communities use pipes called pond levelers. These devices allow water to flow through a dam at a controlled level while the beaver remains nearby. Land managers must examine each site, including nearby homes, stream health, and wildlife needs, before choosing a solution. Evidence helps them balance benefits with possible problems.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What conclusion can you make about the small structures that copy beaver dams? Support your response with two details from paragraph 1.

2 Why would it be inaccurate to say that every beaver wetland stops wildfires? Use evidence from paragraph 2.

3 A beaver dam is causing water to rise near a road. What solution does the passage suggest, and what evidence supports it?

4 A town is deciding whether beavers should live near a neighborhood stream. What information should land managers examine before deciding? Support your response with evidence from paragraph 3.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

A park has a dry, damaged stream, but a bike trail runs close to the water. Write a three-sentence recommendation for the park about whether and how it should support beavers. Use at least two details from the passage as evidence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details in each paragraph that could support a response about what beaver dams do or how people should manage them. Number your underlined details 1 through 6 so you can point to evidence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What conclusion can you make about the small structures that copy beaver dams? Support your response with two details from paragraph 1.	They can help damaged streams recover because they copy the way beaver dams slow water, although they do not replace beavers.
2	Why would it be inaccurate to say that every beaver wetland stops wildfires? Use evidence from paragraph 2.	Researchers observed that only some wetlands stayed wetter, and the passage says wetter ground may burn less intensely. The effects also depend on weather, terrain, and wetland size.
3	A beaver dam is causing water to rise near a road. What solution does the passage suggest, and what evidence supports it?	The community could use a pond leveler. It lets water flow through the dam at a controlled level while the beaver remains nearby.
4	A town is deciding whether beavers should live near a neighborhood stream. What information should land managers examine before deciding? Support your response with evidence from paragraph 3.	They should examine nearby homes, stream health, and wildlife needs because a dam can flood land or roads, but it can also provide environmental benefits.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The park should first study whether a beaver dam could send water toward the bike trail. Beaver dams can spread water into soil and help damaged streams recover, so beavers could benefit the dry stream. If water might reach the trail, the park could use a pond leveler because it controls water flow while allowing the beaver to remain nearby.

Accept responses that make a reasonable claim and support it with accurate details from the passage. For the open task, accept different recommendations when the student uses at least two relevant text details and writes exactly three sentences.