

Beaver Clarity Notes

Use annotations to notice and repair confusion while reading.

7.5.I "monitor comprehension and make adjustments such as re-reading, using background knowledge, asking questions, and annotating when understanding breaks down."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, circle up to two words or ideas that make you pause. In the margin, write a question beside one circle and a short note showing how rereading or background knowledge helps you understand it.

How Beavers Shape Waterways

- ① Beavers do more than build shelters. When a beaver places branches, stones, and mud across a narrow stream, it creates a dam. Water slows behind the dam and spreads into a pond. This change can seem small, but it alters the surrounding land. Streams usually carry soil particles downstream. When the water slows, many of those particles settle to the bottom instead. Over time, the pond may become shallower as sediment collects there each season.
- ② The pond also changes which living things can use the area. Still water near a dam can provide habitat for frogs, fish, and insects. Trees standing in flooded soil may die, however, because their roots cannot get enough oxygen. At first, a reader might think dead trees mean the habitat has been harmed. Yet woodpeckers and other animals can use the standing trunks for nesting or feeding. A beaver pond can therefore create losses for some species while creating opportunities for others.
- ③ Beaver dams do not last forever. Strong floods can break them apart, and beavers sometimes leave a site when food becomes scarce. Even an abandoned dam may continue to affect water flow for years. Scientists study these changes because ponds and wetlands can store water, filter some pollutants, and support many species. To understand a text like this, readers may need to pause at a word such as scarce or pollutants. Rereading the surrounding sentences and connecting ideas to prior knowledge about water can clarify the meaning.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** Suppose you do not understand why the pond becomes shallower in paragraph 1. Which two sentences should you reread, and what do they explain?

- 2** Use your background knowledge that roots need oxygen. Which detail in paragraph 2 does this knowledge help you understand, and how?

- 3** Ask one question after the first two sentences of paragraph 3 that the rest of the paragraph helps answer. Then answer it in one sentence.

- 4** Write a 12- to 20-word margin note that shows how you infer the meaning of pollutants from its surrounding sentence.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one sentence from the passage that made you slow down. In 35 to 50 words, make a three-part annotation: quote 4 to 10 consecutive words, write a question, and explain how rereading or background knowledge clarified the sentence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

As you read, circle up to two words or ideas that make you pause. In the margin, write a question beside one circle and a short note showing how rereading or background knowledge helps you understand it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Suppose you do not understand why the pond becomes shallower in paragraph 1. Which two sentences should you reread, and what do they explain?	Reread the sentences beginning “Streams usually carry” and “When the water slows.” They explain that soil particles settle to the bottom and build up as sediment.
2	Use your background knowledge that roots need oxygen. Which detail in paragraph 2 does this knowledge help you understand, and how?	It helps explain why trees standing in flooded soil may die, because their roots cannot get enough oxygen.
3	Ask one question after the first two sentences of paragraph 3 that the rest of the paragraph helps answer. Then answer it in one sentence.	Question: Why do scientists study beaver ponds and wetlands? Answer: Scientists study them because they can store water, filter some pollutants, and support many species.
4	Write a 12- to 20-word margin note that shows how you infer the meaning of pollutants from its surrounding sentence.	I infer pollutants are unwanted substances because wetlands can filter some of them.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Quote: “Even an abandoned dam may continue to affect water flow.” Question: How can a broken or empty dam matter? Reread note: The next sentence says scientists study changes, so I infer the dam's remaining structure still changes how water moves.

Accept different circled words, questions, and annotations when students support their thinking with nearby details or reasonable background knowledge. For Questions 3 and 4 and the open task, accept varied responses that meet the stated format and word-count requirements.