

Wetland Detectives

Annotate main ideas and details in an informational source.

7.6.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 that states the main point in each paragraph, circle one supporting detail in each paragraph, and write a 3- to 5-word margin note beside each paragraph.

How Beavers Shape Waterways

- ① Beavers change landscapes by building dams from branches, mud, and stones. A dam slows a stream, causing water to spread into nearby low ground. The new pond can cover land that was once dry. Beavers also dig canals, which help them float heavy branches and travel between water and food. These actions create a wetland, a place where water stays near the surface for long periods rather than rushing downstream after each rainfall or snowmelt.
- ② Wetlands made by beavers can support many living things. Shallow water and muddy edges give frogs places to lay eggs, while insects feed fish and birds. Water held behind a dam may also soak into the ground, adding to underground water supplies. During heavy rain, a wetland can slow water that might otherwise rush downstream. Scientists study these effects because they show how one animal can influence water, soil, plants, and other animals across a whole area.
- ③ Beaver dams are not always welcome near roads, farms, or homes. Water backed up by a dam can flood a field or block a drainage pipe. Instead of removing every beaver, some communities use devices called flow controls. A pipe placed through a dam lets some water pass slowly while the pond remains. This approach can reduce flooding and keep part of the wetland habitat. It shows that people can respond to a problem by studying how a natural system works.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Write a 3- to 5-word margin note for paragraph 1. Then copy one detail that supports your note.

2 Choose one supporting detail you circled in paragraph 2. In one sentence, explain how it supports that paragraph's main point.

3 Use the sentences you underlined in paragraphs 1 and 2. Write one sentence explaining how the second paragraph develops the first paragraph's idea.

4 Copy one supporting detail from paragraph 3 that shows how flow controls work. Then write a 3- to 5-word margin note for the paragraph.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Use your marked passage to write a 45- to 60-word freewrite. Explain one benefit and one challenge of beaver dams, then name the solution described in the source. Include at least two details from different paragraphs.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that states the main point in each paragraph, circle one supporting detail in each paragraph, and write a 3- to 5-word margin note beside each paragraph. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Write a 3- to 5-word margin note for paragraph 1. Then copy one detail that supports your note.	Margin note: Beavers create wetlands. Supporting detail: "A dam slows a stream, causing water to spread into nearby low ground."
2	Choose one supporting detail you circled in paragraph 2. In one sentence, explain how it supports that paragraph's main point.	The detail about frogs laying eggs supports the idea that beaver wetlands support many living things.
3	Use the sentences you underlined in paragraphs 1 and 2. Write one sentence explaining how the second paragraph develops the first paragraph's idea.	Beavers create wetlands by slowing water, and those wetlands support animals and help slow heavy rain.
4	Copy one supporting detail from paragraph 3 that shows how flow controls work. Then write a 3- to 5-word margin note for the paragraph.	Supporting detail: "A pipe placed through a dam lets some water pass slowly while the pond remains." Margin note: Flow controls reduce flooding.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Beaver dams can create wetlands, where water stays near the surface and animals find habitat. However, backed-up water can flood a field or block a drainage pipe near people's homes. Communities can use flow controls, pipes that let water pass slowly while keeping much of the pond.

For the freewrite, check for 45 to 60 words, a benefit, a challenge, flow controls, and accurate details from at least two paragraphs.