Beaver Builders

Find ideas that connect each paragraph.

3.RI.1.A "Determine the main idea of multi-paragraph texts as well as specific paragraphs within them."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that tells the main idea in each paragraph. Number two details in each paragraph that support that main idea.

How Beavers Shape a Stream

1. Beavers build dams and lodges to make homes in water. Using their strong teeth, they cut small trees and branches. They pile wood, mud, and stones across moving water to make a dam. The dam slows the water and can form a pond. In the pond, beavers build a lodge, a shelter with an underwater entrance.

2. Beaver dams make ponds that help beavers and other animals. The pond behind a dam may give frogs, fish, ducks, and turtles places to live. Deep water can also help beavers stay safer from some land animals that hunt them. When a dam leaks, beavers often carry mud and sticks to the weak spot. They work to keep the pond deep and calm.

3. Beaver ponds change the land and water around a stream over time. A new pond may spread water into nearby soil, helping some plants grow. The pond can catch dirt that flows in with rainwater, so water farther downstream may be clearer. Over time, a pond may fill with soil and plants. Then beavers may move away and build in another place.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the main idea of paragraph 1?

2. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?

3. What is the main idea of paragraph 3?

4. What is the main idea of the whole passage? Include what beavers do and one result of their work.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose an animal. Write two informational paragraphs with two sentences in each paragraph, and make the first sentence of each paragraph state that paragraph's main idea. Then write one sentence that states the main idea of both paragraphs together.

ANSWER KEY

Beaver Builders

GRADE 3 · 3.RI.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that tells the main idea in each paragraph. Number two details in each paragraph that support that main idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the main idea of paragraph 1?	**Beavers build dams and lodges to make homes in water.**
2	What is the main idea of paragraph 2?	**Beaver dams make ponds that help beavers and other animals.**
3	What is the main idea of paragraph 3?	**Beaver ponds change the land and water around a stream over time.**
4	What is the main idea of the whole passage? Include what beavers do and one result of their work.	**Beavers build and maintain dams that create ponds, helping animals and changing the area around a stream.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Paragraph 1: Monarch butterflies travel long distances during migration. In fall, many monarchs fly from the United States and Canada to central Mexico. Paragraph 2: Monarch butterflies need food and resting places on their trip. They drink nectar from flowers and may rest in trees. Main idea of both paragraphs: Monarch butterflies migrate long distances and need resources along the way.

Accept main ideas stated in the student's own words if they include the central point of the paragraph or passage. For the open task, accept accurate animal facts, two sentences per paragraph, a clear main idea in each first sentence, and an overall idea that connects both paragraphs.