Beavers Change Water

Find main ideas, supporting evidence, and cause-and-effect details.

3.RI.1 "Key Ideas and Confirming Details Determine the main idea of multi-paragraph texts as well as specific paragraphs within them. Summarize texts using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause and effect..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the main idea in each paragraph. Circle two details that support the author's point about why dams help beavers.

How Beavers Shape a Place

(1) Beavers are mammals that live near ponds, streams, and rivers. They use their strong teeth to cut branches. Then they carry the wood to the water. A beaver dam is a wall of branches, mud, and stones. The dam slows moving water. This helps create a deeper pond where beavers can swim and find safety.

(2) Beavers build dams for a reason. On land, they move slowly and may be caught by animals such as coyotes. In deeper water, beavers can dive and swim away. A pond also lets them float heavy branches to their homes. These details support the point that dams help beavers stay safe and carry building materials.

(3) After a dam holds back water, the pond can spread into nearby low land. This change may give frogs, fish, and water birds places to live. It can also cover trees or flood a trail. Over time, a dam may change the area around it. Beavers do more than build homes. Their work can reshape a habitat.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the main idea of paragraph 1?

2. What is the main idea of the whole passage?

3. Write a two-sentence summary of the passage. Use at least one time word and one cause-and-effect word, such as because.

4. What point does the author make in paragraph 2? Give two details that support the point.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

For paragraph 3, write a main-idea sentence. List two supporting details, then write one sentence explaining how the details support that main idea.

ANSWER KEY

Beavers Change Water

GRADE 3 · 3.RI.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the main idea in each paragraph. Circle two details that support the author's point about why dams help beavers. 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 use dams to slow water and create deeper, safer ponds.**
2	What is the main idea of the whole passage?	**Beavers build dams for safety and transport, and their dams can change nearby habitats.**
3	Write a two-sentence summary of the passage. Use at least one time word and one cause-and-effect word, such as because.	**First, beavers build dams from branches, mud, and stones because deeper water helps them move safely. Over time, the pond can change the habitat for plants and animals.**
4	What point does the author make in paragraph 2? Give two details that support the point.	**The author's point is that dams help beavers stay safe and carry materials. Supporting details include that beavers can dive and swim away in deeper water, and they can float heavy branches to their homes.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Main idea: Beaver dams can change nearby habitats. Details: The pond may provide places for frogs, fish, and water birds to live. It may also cover trees or flood a trail. These details show that a dam affects both living things and the land around the pond.

Accept equivalent main ideas that include both beaver dams and their effects. For the summary, accept accurate time, sequence, and cause-and-effect language drawn from the passage.