Beaver Clue Connections

Connect what you know to new facts.

3.RI.3.A "Use prior (experience) and background (content) knowledge as context for new learning."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail in each paragraph that connects to something you already know, then write a short note in the margin naming that earlier knowledge. These connections help you use what you know to understand new facts about beavers.

Busy Beavers

1. Beavers are mammals that live near ponds, streams, and rivers. They have webbed back feet for swimming and strong front teeth for cutting wood. A beaver's broad, flat tail helps it steer in water. The tail can also slap the water loudly. This sound warns nearby beavers that danger may be close, such as a fox or person.

2. Beavers build dams by placing branches, mud, and stones across moving water. The dam slows the water and can create a deeper pond. In the pond, a beaver builds a lodge, which is its home. The entrance is often underwater, so many land animals cannot easily reach the beaver inside. This gives the beaver a safer place to rest and raise kits.

3. Beavers do not sleep all winter like some animals. In fall, they store branches underwater near their lodge. When ice covers the pond, the beavers can swim below the ice to get food. Their thick fur holds warm air near their skin, helping them stay warm in cold water. They also share the lodge with their family.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. You may already know that webbed feet help ducks swim. Which fact about beavers becomes easier to understand with that knowledge?

2. If you know that a wall placed across flowing water can slow it, how does that idea help you understand why beavers build dams?

3. You may know that a hard-to-reach door can protect a home. How does that help you understand why a lodge entrance is underwater?

4. Think about wearing a coat on a cold day. What new fact from paragraph 3 is similar, and how does it help a beaver?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a passage detail that was not used in questions 1 through 4. Write two sentences. In sentence 1, tell something you already knew. In sentence 2, explain how that knowledge helps you understand the passage detail.

ANSWER KEY

Beaver Clue Connections

GRADE 3 · 3.RI.3.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail in each paragraph that connects to something you already know, then write a short note in the margin naming that earlier knowledge. These connections help you use what you know to understand new facts about beavers. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	You may already know that webbed feet help ducks swim. Which fact about beavers becomes easier to understand with that knowledge?	**Beavers have webbed back feet for swimming.**
2	If you know that a wall placed across flowing water can slow it, how does that idea help you understand why beavers build dams?	**A dam slows moving water and can create a deeper pond.**
3	You may know that a hard-to-reach door can protect a home. How does that help you understand why a lodge entrance is underwater?	**Land animals cannot easily reach the beaver inside the lodge.**
4	Think about wearing a coat on a cold day. What new fact from paragraph 3 is similar, and how does it help a beaver?	**A beaver's thick fur holds warm air near its skin, helping it stay warm in cold water.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I already knew that loud sounds can get an animal's attention. This helps me understand that a beaver slaps its tail on the water to warn nearby beavers about danger.

Accept answers that connect a reasonable prior experience or fact to an accurate detail from the passage. For the open response, accept any detail not used in questions 1 through 4 if the student writes two sentences and clearly explains the connection.