Beaver Builders

Read for details, then use the text to support your writing.

3.RI.3.D "Demonstrate comprehension by writing about what is read using the text for support."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show how a beaver's dam, lodge, or pond helps it live safely. Number your underlined details 1, 2, and 3.

How Beavers Make a Home

1. Beavers are large rodents that live near streams, rivers, and ponds. They use their sharp front teeth to cut small trees and branches. Then they drag the wood into shallow water. A beaver places sticks, mud, and stones across a stream to make a dam. The dam slows the water, so a pond begins to form behind it.

2. After making a pond, a beaver builds a lodge, which is its home. The lodge may sit in the pond or along its edge. Beavers pile branches and mud into a mound. Inside, they make a dry room above the water. An underwater entrance helps protect the beaver from animals that might try to enter the lodge.

3. In autumn, beavers gather extra branches near their lodge. They store these branches underwater, where the food stays fresh longer. During winter, ice may cover the pond, but beavers can swim below the ice to reach their stored food. The pond also gives them a place to escape quickly if danger comes near. By building carefully, beavers make a safer place to live.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does a beaver's dam help make a pond? Use two details from the text in your answer.

2. How does the lodge protect a beaver? Use details from the text.

3. Why do beavers store branches underwater in autumn? Use evidence from the text.

4. What is one way the pond helps a beaver stay safe? Support your answer with a detail from the text.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences explaining how beavers prepare to live safely through winter. Use at least two details from the passage to support your explanation.

ANSWER KEY

Beaver Builders

GRADE 3 · 3.RI.3.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show how a beaver's dam, lodge, or pond helps it live safely. Number your underlined details 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does a beaver's dam help make a pond? Use two details from the text in your answer.	**A beaver places sticks, mud, and stones across a stream to make a dam. The dam slows the water, so a pond forms behind it.**
2	How does the lodge protect a beaver? Use details from the text.	**The lodge has a dry room above the water and an underwater entrance. The underwater entrance helps keep animals from entering the lodge.**
3	Why do beavers store branches underwater in autumn? Use evidence from the text.	**The branches are food that stays fresh longer underwater. In winter, beavers can swim below the ice to reach the stored food.**
4	What is one way the pond helps a beaver stay safe? Support your answer with a detail from the text.	**The pond gives a beaver a place to escape quickly when danger comes near.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Beavers prepare for winter by gathering extra branches in autumn. They store the branches underwater, where the food stays fresh longer. When ice covers the pond, they can swim below it to reach the food.

Accept answers that accurately explain ideas from the passage and include relevant text details or clear paraphrases. For Part 3, accept three sentences with at least two accurate details about winter preparation and safety.