Pond Change Trackers

Track main ideas and cause-and-effect details in an informational text.

3.RI "The student will use textual evidence to demonstrate comprehension and build knowledge from grade-level complex informational texts read..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence in each paragraph that tells its main idea. Circle words that show a cause or effect, such as so, because, if, and when, to trace how beaver dams change habitats.

How Beavers Change Habitats

1. Beavers build dams that change moving water into ponds. To make a pond deeper and safer, a beaver piles branches, stones, and mud across a stream. This barrier is called a dam. Water slows behind the dam, forming a pond where the beaver can swim to its lodge and escape many land predators more easily.

2. Beaver ponds can change the area around them by creating wet habitat. Some nearby ground becomes wet, so plants that need water may grow there. The pond also gives frogs, fish, ducks, and insects places to live or find food. Because beaver ponds provide water and shelter, many kinds of living things can use the habitat.

3. Weather and beaver repairs affect how long a beaver pond lasts. Heavy rain can push hard against a dam, and the dam may break if beavers do not repair it. When water rushes out, the pond level falls and wet ground may dry. The author explains these changes to show that beavers reshape habitats, but the ponds can change again.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the main idea of paragraph 2? Give one detail from the paragraph that supports your answer.

2. What is the main idea of the whole text? Use details from two different paragraphs to support your answer.

3. What cause-and-effect connection does paragraph 3 explain? State the cause and the effect.

4. Why did the author include the examples of frogs, fish, ducks, and insects in paragraph 2?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences that summarize the whole text. Use the words first, then, and as a result, and include the overall main idea and one cause-and-effect connection.

ANSWER KEY

Pond Change Trackers

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence in each paragraph that tells its main idea. Circle words that show a cause or effect, such as so, because, if, and when, to trace how beaver dams change habitats. 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 2? Give one detail from the paragraph that supports your answer.	**Beaver ponds create wet habitat for many living things. One supporting detail is that frogs, fish, ducks, and insects can live or find food in the pond.**
2	What is the main idea of the whole text? Use details from two different paragraphs to support your answer.	**Beavers reshape habitats by building dams that form ponds, but those ponds can change. A dam slows water and forms a pond, and the pond provides water and shelter for many living things.**
3	What cause-and-effect connection does paragraph 3 explain? State the cause and the effect.	**If heavy rain damages a dam and beavers do not repair it, the dam may break. Water then rushes out, the pond level falls, and wet ground may dry.**
4	Why did the author include the examples of frogs, fish, ducks, and insects in paragraph 2?	**The examples are evidence for the point that beaver ponds provide habitat, food, water, and shelter for many living things.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

First, a beaver builds a dam from branches, stones, and mud, and the water behind it forms a pond. Then the pond gives water, shelter, and food to many plants and animals. As a result, beavers reshape habitats, though rain and repairs affect how long a pond lasts.

Accept main-idea responses that state that beavers build dams which form ponds and change habitats. For the summary, accept three sentences that use the required sequence words, include accurate text-based details, and explain a cause-and-effect relationship.