

Dam Builders Compared

Compare a story and facts about beaver dams.

3.RL.3.B “Compare and contrast details in paired literary and informational nonfiction texts including their treatment of similar themes, topics, and patterns of events.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details in the Literary Text that match an idea in the Informational Text. Circle the matching facts, then draw a line between each matching pair.

A Beaver Dam Pair

- ① Literary Text: On a chilly morning, Maya heard water rushing beside the trail. A beaver was pushing a branch toward a pile of sticks. “That dam is getting bigger,” Maya said. She watched the beaver pat mud into a gap. By noon, the rushing sound had softened, and a quiet pond spread behind the dam.
- ② Later that afternoon, Maya returned with her sketchbook. The pond held still water, and a duck floated near tall grass. Maya drew the dam, then noticed the beaver carrying another branch. She understood that the animal was changing the stream. Maya left quietly so the beaver could keep working without being scared near the pond.
- ③ Informational Text: Beavers build dams with branches, stones, and mud. A dam slows moving water and can form a pond behind it. The pond may give beavers a safer place to swim and keep food. Other animals, such as ducks, frogs, and fish, may use the pond too. Beavers often repair gaps when water moves through the dam.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How do both texts explain what a beaver dam does to water?

2 What action does the beaver take in the Literary Text that matches a fact in the Informational Text?

3 How is the Literary Text different from the Informational Text?

4 How does each text describe ducks near the pond?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences comparing the two texts. In the first sentence, tell one way they are alike. In the second, tell one difference in how they share information. In the third, connect one story event to a matching fact.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details in the Literary Text that match an idea in the Informational Text. Circle the matching facts, then draw a line between each matching pair. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do both texts explain what a beaver dam does to water?	Both show that a dam slows the moving water and forms or makes a pond behind it.
2	What action does the beaver take in the Literary Text that matches a fact in the Informational Text?	The beaver pats mud into a gap, matching the fact that beavers repair gaps in dams.
3	How is the Literary Text different from the Informational Text?	The Literary Text tells what Maya sees during a day, while the Informational Text gives general facts about beavers and dams.
4	How does each text describe ducks near the pond?	The Literary Text tells about one duck floating near tall grass. The Informational Text says ducks may use the pond.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Both texts show a beaver working on a dam that changes the stream. The Literary Text tells Maya's observations in time order, while the Informational Text gives general facts about beavers. Maya sees the beaver put mud into a gap, which matches the fact that beavers repair gaps in a dam.

Accept answers that accurately compare details from both texts, even when students use different wording. For the open response, look for one similarity, one difference in text treatment, and one accurate connection between an event and a fact.