Beaver Builder Words

Read a science text and notice words that explain it.

3.RV.1.A "Develop general academic language and content specific vocabulary by listening to, reading, and discussing a variety of texts relevant to a grade three topic or subject area."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four science words that name a place, structure, or part of a beaver's world. Circle three academic words you could use to explain ideas in many subjects.

Beavers Change Wetlands

1. Beavers are busy builders that live near ponds, streams, and wetlands. A wetland is land that stays covered with shallow water for all or part of the year. Beavers use branches, mud, and stones to build a dam across moving water. The dam slows the water and can form a pond. This new pond can give beavers a safer place to swim.

2. A beaver's home is called a lodge. It is often built in the pond, with an underwater entrance that helps protect the beaver from many predators. The pond is also a habitat, or a place where living things find food, water, and shelter. Ducks, frogs, fish, and insects may depend on the wetland habitat. They need its resources to survive.

3. Beaver dams can affect an area in several ways. When water spreads into nearby land, new wetland space may appear. This change can provide homes for some animals, but it can also cover plants that grew on dry ground. Scientists observe these changes to understand how beavers shape their environment over time and in different seasons.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which content-specific word means land that is covered with shallow water for all or part of the year?

2. What does habitat mean in paragraph 2?

3. What does the academic word affect mean as it is used in paragraph 3?

4. What are two resources that animals can find in a wetland habitat?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one content-specific word and one academic word from the passage. Write two sentences that explain one way a beaver dam changes a wetland, using both words correctly.

ANSWER KEY

Beaver Builder Words

GRADE 3 · 3.RV.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline four science words that name a place, structure, or part of a beaver's world. Circle three academic words you could use to explain ideas in many subjects. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which content-specific word means land that is covered with shallow water for all or part of the year?	**wetland**
2	What does habitat mean in paragraph 2?	**A place where living things find food, water, and shelter.**
3	What does the academic word affect mean as it is used in paragraph 3?	**To cause a change in something.**
4	What are two resources that animals can find in a wetland habitat?	**Any two: food, water, shelter.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A beaver dam can affect a wetland by slowing water. The pond behind the dam can provide a habitat for frogs and ducks.

Accept content-specific words such as wetland, dam, lodge, habitat, predator, or environment. Accept academic words such as affect, provide, protect, depend, observe, change, or resources when they are used correctly in two complete sentences.