Beaver Fact Builders

See how a model text develops one topic with facts and details.

3.W.1.C "Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic that develops the topic with facts and details."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one sentence in each paragraph that tells what the paragraph mostly explains. Circle two facts or details in each paragraph that help explain beavers or their ponds.

Beavers Build Ponds

1. Beavers are busy animals that change the places where they live. They use their strong front teeth to cut small trees and branches. Then they pile wood, mud, and stones across a stream. This dam slows the water and forms a pond. The pond gives beavers a safer place to swim, build, and hide from many predators.

2. A beaver pond can also help other living things. The still water gives frogs a place to lay eggs. Ducks may rest or feed on the pond. Fish can find calmer water behind the dam. Plants grow along the wet edges, and those plants can provide food and cover for insects, birds, and other animals.

3. Beavers need to keep their dams in good shape. Flowing water can carry away mud or loosen branches. A beaver listens for the sound of water leaking through its dam. It may bring more mud and sticks to the spot. By repairing the dam, the beaver helps keep the pond deep enough for its home.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What topic does the whole passage explain?

2. Which sentence in paragraph 1 explains how beavers make a dam?

3. Give two details from paragraph 2 that support the idea that a beaver pond helps other living things.

4. How does the detail about bringing mud and sticks help develop paragraph 3?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a living thing that helps its habitat. Write a four-sentence informative paragraph with a first sentence that names your topic and at least three facts or details that explain it.

ANSWER KEY

Beaver Fact Builders

GRADE 3 · 3.W.1.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one sentence in each paragraph that tells what the paragraph mostly explains. Circle two facts or details in each paragraph that help explain beavers or their ponds. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What topic does the whole passage explain?	**Beavers, their dams, and the ponds their dams create.**
2	Which sentence in paragraph 1 explains how beavers make a dam?	**Then they pile wood, mud, and stones across a stream.**
3	Give two details from paragraph 2 that support the idea that a beaver pond helps other living things.	**Possible answers: Frogs lay eggs in the still water, ducks rest or feed on the pond, fish find calmer water, or pond-edge plants provide food and cover for animals.**
4	How does the detail about bringing mud and sticks help develop paragraph 3?	**It explains how a beaver repairs a leaking or damaged dam.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Sea otters help kelp forests stay healthy. They eat sea urchins, which can chew through kelp. When fewer sea urchins eat kelp, more kelp can grow. Thick kelp gives fish and other sea animals places to hide.

Accept accurate topic statements and details stated in the student's own words. For Part 3, accept any appropriate living thing if the first sentence introduces the topic and the remaining sentences develop it with accurate facts or details.