Beaver Cause Clues

Use clues, questions, and summaries to make sense of a cause-and-effect text.

4.DSR.E "Use reading strategies as needed to aid and monitor comprehension when encountering challenging sections of text. These sense-making strategies attend to common organizational text structures, summarizing, asking questions of the text..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle words that show a cause or an effect. Underline one sentence in each paragraph that you would use in a summary.

Beavers Help Streams

1. Long ago, many streams in the western United States held beaver ponds. Later, trapping and land changes reduced beaver numbers. Without their dams, some streams flowed quickly through narrow channels. The fast water carried soil away and left fewer wet places for fish, frogs, and birds. Scientists began studying whether returning beavers could help damaged streams.

2. When beavers move into a stream, they pile branches, mud, and stones to make dams. Water slows behind the dams and spreads onto nearby land. As a result, ponds and soggy ground can form. These wet areas give many animals places to feed or hide. The dams also hold water longer, so the stream may keep flowing during dry weeks.

3. Some land managers now work with beavers instead of removing every dam. In one method, people place short rows of wooden posts in a damaged stream. The posts slow water and give beavers a place to begin building. Because the stream spreads more gently, plants can grow along its banks. Over time, roots help hold soil in place, and the stream can become healthier.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What problem in paragraph 1 leads scientists to study returning beavers?

2. Write a question that paragraph 2 answers. Then answer your question in one sentence.

3. Which words in paragraph 2 signal that an effect is coming? What effect follows those words?

4. Write a one-sentence summary of paragraph 3. Include the main action and one result.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Reread the whole passage. Write one question about how ideas in two paragraphs connect, then write a two-sentence summary of the whole passage that answers your question.

ANSWER KEY

Beaver Cause Clues

GRADE 4 · 4.DSR.E

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle words that show a cause or an effect. Underline one sentence in each paragraph that you would use in a summary. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem in paragraph 1 leads scientists to study returning beavers?	**Without beaver dams, some streams flowed too quickly, carried soil away, and had fewer wet habitats for animals.**
2	Write a question that paragraph 2 answers. Then answer your question in one sentence.	**How do beaver dams change a stream? Beaver dams slow water, create wet areas, and can help a stream keep flowing during dry weeks.**
3	Which words in paragraph 2 signal that an effect is coming? What effect follows those words?	**The words are "As a result." Ponds and soggy ground can form.**
4	Write a one-sentence summary of paragraph 3. Include the main action and one result.	**Land managers use wooden posts to help beavers build in damaged streams, which slows water and helps plants and roots protect the stream banks.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

How do beavers and land managers work together to help damaged streams? Beaver dams slow water and make wet habitat, while land managers can use wooden posts to help beavers start building in damaged streams. Slower, gentler water lets plants and roots grow, which holds soil and helps streams become healthier.