Beaver Question Lab

Read facts and build focused questions.

4.R.1.A "Construct and formulate questions about a topic."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details you could investigate further. Number the details 1, 2, and 3 to help you form focused questions.

Beavers Change a Stream

1. Beavers are mammals that build dams across slow-moving streams. They carry branches, mud, and stones to block water. As water rises, it spreads into a pond. The pond gives beavers a safer place to swim and helps protect the entrance to their lodge, which is the home where a beaver family rests and raises young.

2. A beaver pond changes more than the stream. Frogs may lay eggs in the still water, and fish can find places to hide. Water stored in the pond can slowly soak into the ground. During dry times, this water may help nearby plants. Scientists study beaver ponds to learn how one animal can affect an entire habitat.

3. When researchers investigate beavers, they do not ask only, "What is a beaver?" They can ask focused questions, such as "How does a dam change the water level?" or "Which animals use a beaver pond?" Focused questions name the thing to study and the information needed. They help researchers decide what to observe, measure, or read about next.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Write a focused question about how a lodge protects a beaver family. Your question must begin with How or Why.

2. Write a focused question about water in a beaver pond helping plants during dry times.

3. A student asks, "Tell me everything about beavers." Rewrite it as one focused question about frogs and a beaver pond.

4. Write one focused question a scientist could investigate about fish in a beaver pond. Include the words fish and pond.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a topic you want to investigate, such as a school garden or a playground. Write three focused questions about that one topic, and ask about a different detail in each question.

ANSWER KEY

Beaver Question Lab

GRADE 4 · 4.R.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three details you could investigate further. Number the details 1, 2, and 3 to help you form focused questions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Write a focused question about how a lodge protects a beaver family. Your question must begin with How or Why.	**How does a lodge help protect a beaver family?**
2	Write a focused question about water in a beaver pond helping plants during dry times.	**Why might water in a beaver pond help nearby plants during dry times?**
3	A student asks, "Tell me everything about beavers." Rewrite it as one focused question about frogs and a beaver pond.	**How can a beaver pond help frogs lay eggs?**
4	Write one focused question a scientist could investigate about fish in a beaver pond. Include the words fish and pond.	**Where can fish find places to hide in a beaver pond?**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

How much water do tomato plants need each week? Why do bees visit the garden flowers? Which vegetables grow best in the shadiest bed?

Accept questions that are clear, narrow, and connected to a passage detail for Questions 1 through 4. Wording may vary if the question asks for information that could be investigated from the stated detail.