Beavers Change Streams

Find the main idea in each paragraph and across a full text.

4.RI.1.A "Summarize the main idea of multi-paragraph texts and the specific paragraphs within them, explaining how key details support the main ideas."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence in each paragraph that best states that paragraph's main idea. Circle two details in each paragraph that explain or support its main idea.

Builders of the Stream

1. Beavers are busy animals that can change the land around a stream. Using branches, mud, and stones, they build dams across moving water. A dam slows the water and can form a pond. Beavers also build lodges, which are homes with underwater entrances. These animals use their strong teeth to cut trees and carry building materials.

2. The pond behind a beaver dam can become a wetland, a place where land is covered by shallow water. Wetlands give frogs, fish, ducks, and insects places to live. The still water can also help soil settle instead of washing downstream. When heavy rain falls, a wetland may hold some extra water and reduce flooding farther along the stream.

3. Beaver dams do not help every place in the same way. A new pond can cover trails, fields, or roads, so people sometimes need to manage the water level. Still, many scientists study beavers because their ponds create habitats and change how water moves through an area. By building dams, beavers affect both nearby animals and people.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Summarize the main idea of the whole passage in one sentence. Include at least two key ideas from the text.

2. What is the main idea of paragraph 1? Give two details that support your answer.

3. Summarize paragraph 2. How do the details about animals and rain support its main idea?

4. How does paragraph 3 support the main idea of the whole passage?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence summary of the passage. Write one sentence for the whole passage, then write one sentence that summarizes each paragraph and includes a key detail.

ANSWER KEY

Beavers Change Streams

GRADE 4 · 4.RI.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence in each paragraph that best states that paragraph's main idea. Circle two details in each paragraph that explain or support its main idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Summarize the main idea of the whole passage in one sentence. Include at least two key ideas from the text.	**Beavers build dams that change streams, creating wetlands that support animals and hold water, while sometimes causing problems for people.**
2	What is the main idea of paragraph 1? Give two details that support your answer.	**Paragraph 1 explains that beavers build dams and lodges that change a stream. They use branches, mud, and stones, and they use strong teeth to cut trees.**
3	Summarize paragraph 2. How do the details about animals and rain support its main idea?	**Paragraph 2 explains that beaver ponds can form useful wetlands. The wetlands provide homes for animals and can hold extra rainwater, which may reduce flooding.**
4	How does paragraph 3 support the main idea of the whole passage?	**Paragraph 3 shows that beaver dams affect both people and animals. Ponds can cover roads or fields, but they also create habitats and change water movement.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Beavers change streams by building dams, and their work affects animals and people. Paragraph 1 explains that beavers use branches, mud, stones, and their teeth to build dams and lodges. Paragraph 2 shows that ponds can make wetlands that provide homes for animals and hold extra rainwater. Paragraph 3 explains that ponds can cover roads or fields, yet they also create habitats and change water movement.

Accept equivalent main ideas and summaries that accurately include the effects of beaver dams on water, habitats, and people. Students may choose different accurate supporting details from each paragraph.