Beaver Builders

Study how facts and linking words build a clear explanation.

4.W.1.C "Write expository texts to examine a topic that develops the focus with facts, details, or other information and uses linking words to connect ideas."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three facts or details that explain how beavers change their habitat. Circle the linking words that connect ideas, such as words that show order, addition, contrast, or results.

How Beavers Shape Habitats

1. Beavers are large rodents that live near ponds, streams, and lakes. They use their strong front teeth to cut branches and small trees. First, a beaver carries sticks through the water or drags them across land. Then it piles the sticks with mud and stones. This work creates a dam, which slows moving water and can form a pond.

2. The new pond can change the area around it. For example, deeper water gives fish, frogs, and ducks places to swim or hide. In addition, the pond may provide water for plants along its edge. Beavers also build lodges from sticks and mud. A lodge has an underwater entrance, so the animals can enter safely when ice covers the pond in winter.

3. However, a beaver dam does not help every place in the same way. If water spreads onto a road or farm field, people may need to guide the beavers elsewhere. Even so, many wetlands made by beavers support many living things. Therefore, scientists study beaver ponds to learn how one animal's building work can reshape a habitat.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. State the passage's focus in one phrase.

2. Write two details from paragraph 1 that show how a beaver builds a dam.

3. What two ideas does the linking phrase In addition connect in paragraph 2?

4. How does However help the reader connect paragraph 2 and paragraph 3?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence informational paragraph about an animal that changes its habitat, such as an earthworm, prairie dog, or coral. State a clear focus, include at least two accurate facts or details, and use at least two linking words.

ANSWER KEY # Beaver Builders

GRADE 4 · 4.W.1.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three facts or details that explain how beavers change their habitat. Circle the linking words that connect ideas, such as words that show order, addition, contrast, or results. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	State the passage's focus in one phrase.	**How beavers build structures and change habitats.**
2	Write two details from paragraph 1 that show how a beaver builds a dam.	**A beaver cuts branches and small trees. It piles sticks with mud and stones.**
3	What two ideas does the linking phrase In addition connect in paragraph 2?	**It connects the idea that deeper water helps animals with the idea that the pond may provide water for plants.**
4	How does However help the reader connect paragraph 2 and paragraph 3?	**It shows a contrast between the pond's benefits and the problem of water spreading onto roads or farm fields.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Earthworms improve the soil where they live. First, they tunnel through the ground, making spaces for air and water. In addition, they pull dead leaves into the soil, where the leaves can break down. Therefore, earthworms help plants get the healthy soil they need.

Accept equivalent statements of the passage focus and accurately copied or paraphrased details. For the paragraph, accept any accurate animal topic with four sentences, a clear focus, at least two details, and at least two linking words.