

# Nature's Builders

Identify facts, vocabulary, details, and order in a model oral report.

**5.C.2.A.i** "Report orally on a topic or text or present an opinion in an organized manner. This includes: Using content specific vocabulary, appropriate facts and relevant descriptive details to support themes or central ideas."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline one fact in each paragraph, circle three content-specific vocabulary words, and write 1, 2, and 3 beside the paragraphs to show the report's order. These marks will help you notice how a speaker supports one central idea.

### How Beavers Build Habitats

- ① Beavers are often called nature's engineers because they change moving water into pond habitats. A beaver builds a dam by placing branches, stones, and mud across a stream. The barrier slows the current and creates a deeper pool. This work does more than make a home for one animal. It can shape an entire wetland, a watery area where many living things find food and shelter.
- ② First, the dam protects the beavers' lodge, which is a shelter built from sticks and mud. Water around the lodge can make it harder for some land predators to reach the entrance. Next, the pond holds water during dry times. That stored water can keep nearby soil moist and provide a place for fish, frogs, insects, and water birds.
- ③ Beaver ponds also affect the land beyond the dam. When water spreads slowly into the ground, it can recharge groundwater, water stored below Earth's surface. Plants grow along the pond's edge, and their roots help hold soil in place. In this way, a beaver dam is not just a pile of wood. It is a structure that can support a busy, changing ecosystem.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What is the central idea of this report?

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2 What does the term "recharge groundwater" mean in the passage?

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3 Write one fact from the passage that shows a beaver pond helps animals besides beavers. Explain how the fact supports the central idea.

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4 How is the report organized? Tell what each paragraph explains.

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## 3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a different animal that affects its habitat. Write a short oral report with an opening central idea, two accurate facts using at least two content-specific words, and a closing sentence explaining why the animal matters. Include one descriptive detail.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline one fact in each paragraph, circle three content-specific vocabulary words, and write 1, 2, and 3 beside the paragraphs to show the report's order. These marks will help you notice how a speaker supports one central idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                                                | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What is the central idea of this report?                                                                                                | <b>Beavers act as nature's engineers because their dams create ponds that support beavers, other animals, plants, and the land.</b>                                           |
| 2 | What does the term "recharge groundwater" mean in the passage?                                                                          | <b>It means water moves into the ground and adds to water stored below Earth's surface.</b>                                                                                   |
| 3 | Write one fact from the passage that shows a beaver pond helps animals besides beavers. Explain how the fact supports the central idea. | <b>The pond provides a place for fish, frogs, insects, and water birds. This shows that a beaver dam can support many species.</b>                                            |
| 4 | How is the report organized? Tell what each paragraph explains.                                                                         | <b>Paragraph 1 introduces beavers and dams. Paragraph 2 explains benefits for beavers and other animals. Paragraph 3 explains effects on soil, plants, and the ecosystem.</b> |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

Earthworms are important soil engineers because they improve the ground where plants grow. As an earthworm burrows, it makes tunnels that let air and water move through dark, crumbly soil. Its castings, or waste, add nutrients that plants can use. By mixing and enriching the soil, earthworms help gardens and forests support healthy ecosystems.

Accept equivalent central ideas, accurate facts, and reasonable explanations that connect details to the report's main point. For Part 3, accept any accurate animal report that has a clear order, relevant vocabulary, two supporting facts, a descriptive detail, and a closing explanation.