Dam Detectives

Use cause-and-effect clues and main ideas to monitor an informational text.

5.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 Underline words or phrases that show why something happens, then write a 5- to 8-word main-idea note beside each paragraph.

A Beaver's Pond

1. On a stream in northern Minnesota, a beaver begins its work at dusk. It carries mud, stones, and branches to a narrow part of the water. The materials slow the current. As water gathers behind the growing dam, a pond forms. This pond gives the beaver a safer place to swim and carry food than a fast, shallow stream.

2. The new pond changes the land around it. Water spreads into places that were once dry, so some trees near the edge may die. However, the pond can also create homes for frogs, fish, ducks, and insects. When dead trees fall into the water, they provide shelter. Because the dam slows the stream, soil and leaves settle on the pond bottom instead of rushing downstream.

3. Beavers must keep repairing their dams. After heavy rain, faster water can push branches loose or wash away mud. A beaver listens for the sound of moving water and checks the dam. If it finds a leak, it carries more materials to the weak spot. This repair work helps the pond remain deep enough for the beaver to travel safely during winter.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What cause-and-effect relationship does the word "As" introduce in paragraph 1?

2. Which paragraph mainly explains effects on plants, animals, and stream materials? How do you know?

3. Write a 12- to 18-word summary of paragraph 3.

4. Write one question you could ask when you reach the sentence about heavy rain. Then answer it using paragraph 3.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Use your margin notes to write a two-sentence summary of the whole passage. Then write one question you would ask to learn more that is not answered in the passage.

ANSWER KEY # Dam Detectives

GRADE 5 · 5.DSR.E

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases that show why something happens, then write a 5- to 8-word main-idea note beside each paragraph. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What cause-and-effect relationship does the word "As" introduce in paragraph 1?	**As water gathers behind the growing dam, a pond forms.**
2	Which paragraph mainly explains effects on plants, animals, and stream materials? How do you know?	**Paragraph 2. It explains changes to trees, animal homes, and soil and leaves in the pond.**
3	Write a 12- to 18-word summary of paragraph 3.	**Beavers repair rain-damaged dams so their ponds stay deep and safe for winter travel.**
4	Write one question you could ask when you reach the sentence about heavy rain. Then answer it using paragraph 3.	**What can heavy rain do to a dam? It can push branches loose or wash away mud.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Beavers build dams that slow streams and make ponds. These ponds change nearby habitats, and beavers repair dams after rain to keep the water deep. How long can a beaver dam last if beavers continue repairing it?

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect clues, such as "As," "so," "Because," and "If," along with accurate main-idea notes. Accept summaries that include dam building, pond effects, and repair work, and accept any reasonable unanswered question about beavers or dams.