Beavers Build Change

Trace how one change affects a stream community.

5.RI.3.C "Explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical texts, including what happened and why based on specific information in the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each action or change caused by a beaver dam. Draw arrows to show what happens next, and number one chain of connected changes in order.

A Dam Changes the Stream

1. Beavers change a stream by building dams from branches, mud, and stones. A dam slows moving water, so water spreads into a pond. The deeper pond gives beavers a safer place to swim and store food. It also creates a watery home for fish, frogs, insects, and water birds. This change begins with one animal's building work.

2. As the pond forms, plants grow along its edges. Their roots hold soil in place, which can reduce erosion during rain. The plants also offer food and hiding places to insects. In turn, insects become food for frogs and fish. Herons may visit the pond to catch fish. One change in the stream can therefore lead to several connected changes in the food web.

3. People sometimes remove old beaver dams because they worry about flooding near roads or fields. When a dam is removed, water moves faster through that spot. The pond may shrink, leaving less shallow water for frogs and fewer edge plants for insects. However, dam removal can help people protect nearby land from unwanted high water. Decisions about dams affect both people and living things.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does a beaver dam help beavers, and what change causes this help?

2. Explain how plants along the pond's edge can reduce erosion during rain.

3. How are insects, frogs, fish, and herons connected in the pond food web?

4. Why might people remove a beaver dam, and how can removal affect frogs and insects?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Create a three-step cause-and-effect chain using details from the passage that shows how removing a dam can affect people and living things. Write three complete sentences, one sentence for each step.

ANSWER KEY

Beavers Build Change

GRADE 5 · 5.RI.3.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each action or change caused by a beaver dam. Draw arrows to show what happens next, and number one chain of connected changes in order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does a beaver dam help beavers, and what change causes this help?	**The dam slows the stream and forms a deeper pond, which gives beavers a safer place to swim and store food.**
2	Explain how plants along the pond's edge can reduce erosion during rain.	**The plants' roots hold the soil in place, so less soil may wash away during rain.**
3	How are insects, frogs, fish, and herons connected in the pond food web?	**Plants support insects, insects are food for frogs and fish, and herons may catch fish.**
4	Why might people remove a beaver dam, and how can removal affect frogs and insects?	**People may remove a dam to prevent flooding near roads or fields. The pond may shrink, leaving less shallow water for frogs and fewer edge plants for insects.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

People may remove a beaver dam when they fear flooding near a road. After the dam is removed, water moves faster and the pond may shrink. With less shallow water and fewer edge plants, frogs and insects may have less habitat.

Accept responses that accurately explain relationships with clear cause-and-effect links from the passage. For Part 3, the three sentences should include a reason for removal, a change in the water or pond, and an effect on living things.