Beavers Build Streams

Track a point, its evidence, and its limits in an informational text.

5.RI "The student will use textual evidence to demonstrate comprehension and build knowledge from grade-level complex informational texts read..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that states the restoration teams' main idea. Circle two details that support or limit that idea so you can see how the author develops it.

Can Beavers Help Streams?

1 Across parts of North America, many streams have become warmer and shallower after roads, grazing, and drought changed the land. Some restoration teams are bringing beavers back to suitable stream areas. The teams believe beaver ponds can help damaged streams recover. This approach does not work everywhere, because beavers need enough water, food, and space away from places where flooding could harm homes or roads.

2 Beavers build dams from branches, mud, and stones. Water slows behind a dam and spreads into a pond. As the water moves slowly, some sand and soil particles settle to the pond bottom. This can make water leaving the pond clearer. The pond also holds water that can seep into nearby ground, helping some streams stay wetter later in summer.

3 Field studies have compared stream sections with beaver dams to nearby sections without them. In some studies, pools behind dams held more water and had cooler summer temperatures. These results support the teams' idea that beavers can improve some stream habitats. However, the researchers do not claim that every stream should receive beavers. Careful site planning remains necessary.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the restoration teams' point about beaver ponds? Give one reason from paragraph 2 that supports this point.

2. Copy the sentence from paragraph 3 that gives research evidence for the teams' point.

3. How does paragraph 3 add to the idea in paragraph 2? Use the word However in your answer.

4. Why must restoration teams plan beaver sites carefully? Use two details from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences advising a town about whether it should consider beavers for a stream. State your point, include two short quoted details from the passage as evidence, and explain one limit the town should consider.

ANSWER KEY

Beavers Build Streams

GRADE 5 · 5.RI

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that states the restoration teams' main idea. Circle two details that support or limit that idea so you can see how the author develops it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the restoration teams' point about beaver ponds? Give one reason from paragraph 2 that supports this point.	**The teams believe beaver ponds can help damaged streams recover. One supporting reason is that slow water lets some sand and soil particles settle, which can make water leaving the pond clearer.**
2	Copy the sentence from paragraph 3 that gives research evidence for the teams' point.	**"In some studies, pools behind dams held more water and had cooler summer temperatures."**
3	How does paragraph 3 add to the idea in paragraph 2? Use the word However in your answer.	**Paragraph 3 adds research evidence that supports the benefits described in paragraph 2. However, it explains that beavers are not right for every stream.**
4	Why must restoration teams plan beaver sites carefully? Use two details from the passage.	**Beavers need enough water and food, and they need space away from places where flooding could harm homes or roads.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The town should consider beavers only at a carefully chosen stream site. Beaver ponds can help because "water leaving the pond clearer" and pools behind dams "held more water." However, the team must choose a place where flooding will not harm homes or roads.

Accept equivalent summaries and evidence-based explanations that accurately connect details to the teams' point. For the open task, accept different recommendations if they include two accurate quotations and a valid limit from the passage.