

2.R.3.A.a, 2.R.3.A.b, 2.R.3.A.c, 2.R.3.A.d

Pre-Post Test - Beavers and Nature's Builders

Scoring:

Beavers:

1. D
2. D
3. B
4. A
5. C
6. C
7. Possible Answers: Beavers are not safe on land because there are animals that want to eat them. Beavers are not fast runners, they are safer in the water than on land.

Nature's Builders

8. B
9. A
10. B
11. C
12. A
13. A
14. B

15. Possible Answers: "Nature's Builders" is more useful for finding information about the inside of a Beaver's lodge. It gives more details and has a diagram to show the inside. "Beavers" has a short description of a beaver's lodge.

Scoring:

First person to tell Katie or Tonya that their post scores on in gets the final "prize".

3 - 10 out of 15 must be correct

2 - 8 out of 15 must be correct

1- anything else

Skill Breakdown:

#1, 3, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15 - Main Idea-Details

#2, 10 - Context Clues

#4, 6, 11, - Text Feature/Main Idea-Detail

#5 - Author's Purpose

#14 - Compare and Contrast

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Beavers

A brown animal swims to the edge of a pond. It slides out of the water. Its wet fur is smooth and shiny. It finds a tree and chews on the trunk with its big front teeth. The tree falls. What animal is it? It is a busy beaver!

What Is a Beaver?

Beavers are mammals. Mammals are animals with fur. They feed milk to their young. Cats, sheep, and zebras are also mammals.

Beavers are a type of mammal called rodents. Mice, chipmunks, and hamsters are also rodents. Rodents have a special set of front teeth. Beavers use their big front teeth to cut sticks, branches, and even large trees.

Beavers are the largest rodents in North America. Adults weigh between 35 and 65 pounds. A beaver's body is 2 to 3 feet long. Its tail is more than 1 foot long. So, from nose to tail, a beaver is almost 4 feet long.

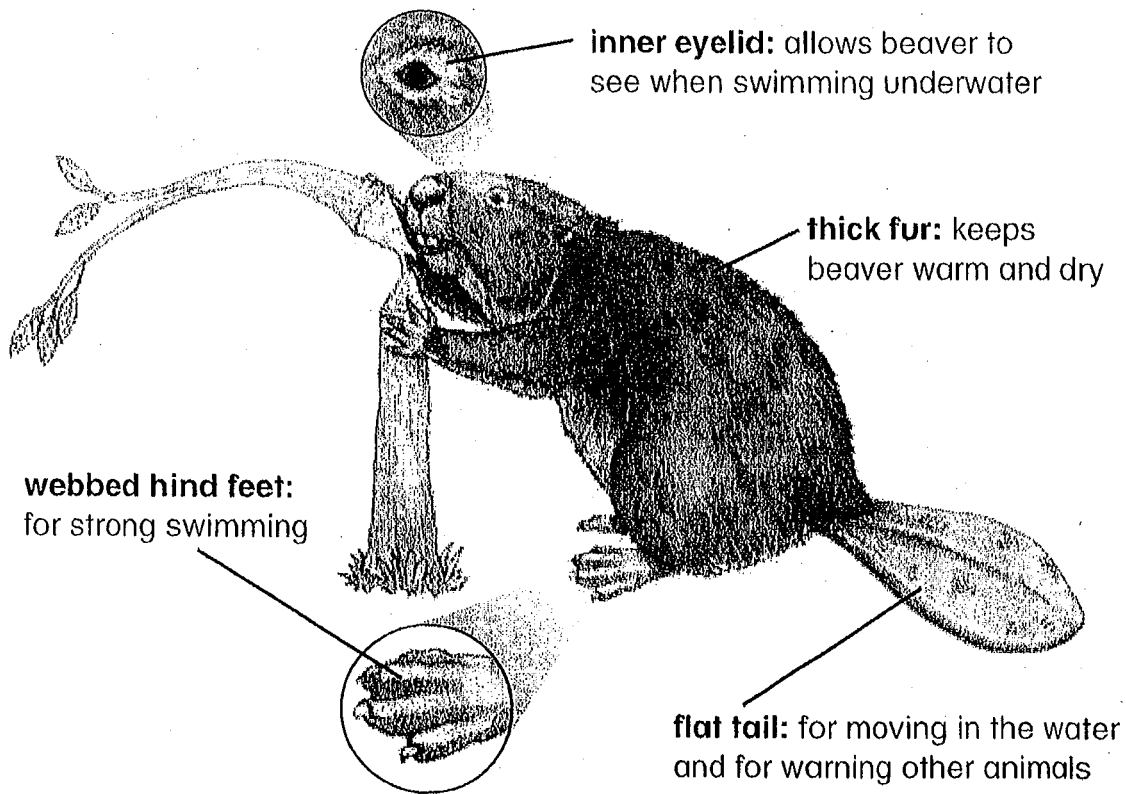
Beavers Are Made for Water

Beavers cannot run fast. A bear, wolf, or fox might catch and eat a beaver on land. Beavers are safer in the water. They can swim well. They swim under the water, too. They can stay underwater for as long as 15 to 20 minutes.

A beaver's body is made for water. Its fur has a special oil on it. The oil keeps the beaver's skin dry in the water. This keeps the beaver warm. Beavers also have special, clear eyelids. These eyelids keep water out. But beavers can still see as they swim. Beavers have webbed hind feet, too. There is skin between their toes. Their hind feet work like paddles in the water.

A beaver has a wide, flat tail. It uses its tail to move and steer in the water. If danger is near, the beaver slaps the water with its tail. Other beavers hear the sound. Then they run or swim to safety.

The Body of a Beaver



Where Do Beavers Live?

Beavers live in lakes, streams, and ponds. They build homes in the water. Their homes are called **lodges**. A lodge is a hollow mound of sticks. To make a lodge, beavers cut down trees with their teeth. They make sticks from the tree branches. They use mud to hold the sticks together. Beavers enter their lodges from under the water. Underwater tunnels keep them safe.

Sometimes there is not enough water for beavers to build a lodge. So beavers make their own ponds. They build a dam across a stream. They build it like a lodge. They use sticks and mud. The dam blocks the water. The water makes a pool or pond. Then the beavers build a lodge in the pool.

1. What is one fact that tells you that beavers are mammals?
 - (A) Beavers build dams.
 - (B) Beavers live in water.
 - (C) Beavers have big front teeth.
 - (D) Beavers feed milk to their young.

2. What is a lodge?
 - (A) a pool or pond
 - (B) a type of beaver
 - (C) a family of beavers
 - (D) a hollow mound of sticks

3. Which detail would you find in the “Where Do Beavers Live?” section of the text?
- (A) Beavers can stay underwater for a long time.
 - (B) Beavers build their homes in water.
 - (C) Beavers are almost 4 feet long from nose to tail.
 - (D) Beavers have webbed hind feet.
4. Which body part helps beavers swim?
- (A) flat tail
 - (B) front feet
 - (C) small eyes
 - (D) large nose
5. What is the author's purpose for writing this text?
- A. to describe the body of the beaver.
 - B. to tell an entertaining story about beavers.
 - C. to give you information about beavers.
 - D. to persuade you to build a lake for beavers.

6. The diagram in the passage helps readers understand

- Ⓐ the size of a beaver.
- Ⓑ how a beaver builds a lodge.
- Ⓒ the special body parts of a beaver.
- Ⓓ how a beaver is like other mammals.

7. Why are beavers not safe on land? Why are beavers safer in the water? Explain your answer using details from the passage.

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Nature's Builders

All animals need somewhere to live. Most animals are born in these places. Sometimes animals have to find them. These places are called **habitats**. Habitats are where animals make their homes.

Finding a Good Habitat

Different animals need different habitats. For beavers, a good habitat has to have two things. First, it needs standing water. Second, it needs trees.

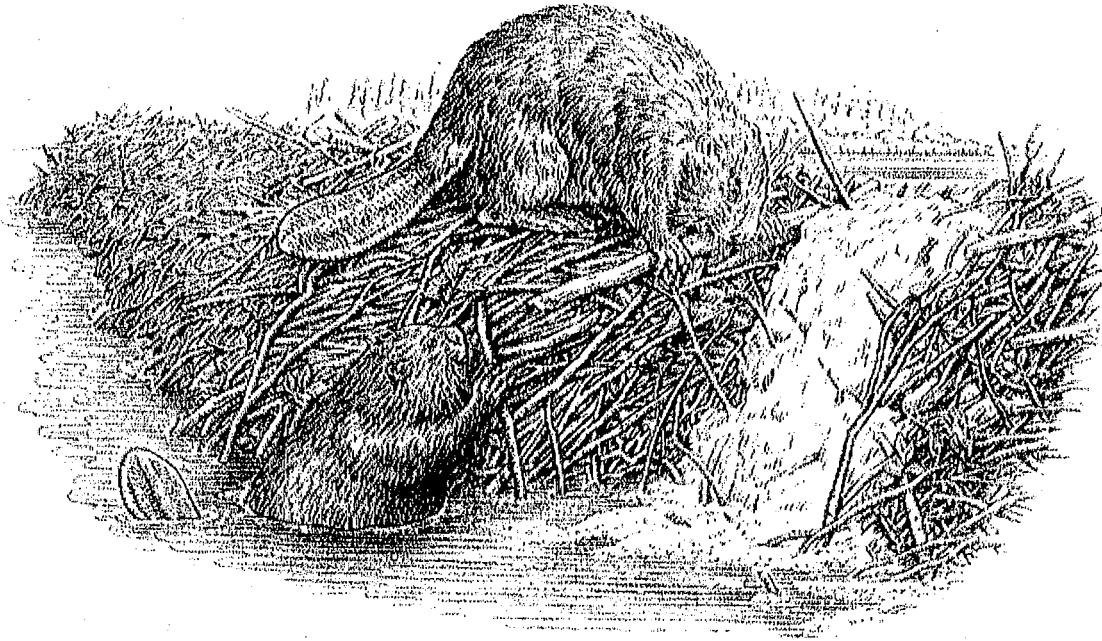
Standing water is water that stays in one place, like in a pond or a lake. Beavers build their homes in standing water. They do not want moving water to displace or wash away their homes.

Beavers also need trees. They use them for food and to make homes. Their homes are called lodges.

Beavers look for forests that have lakes or ponds. That is where they find standing water. They build their lodges there.

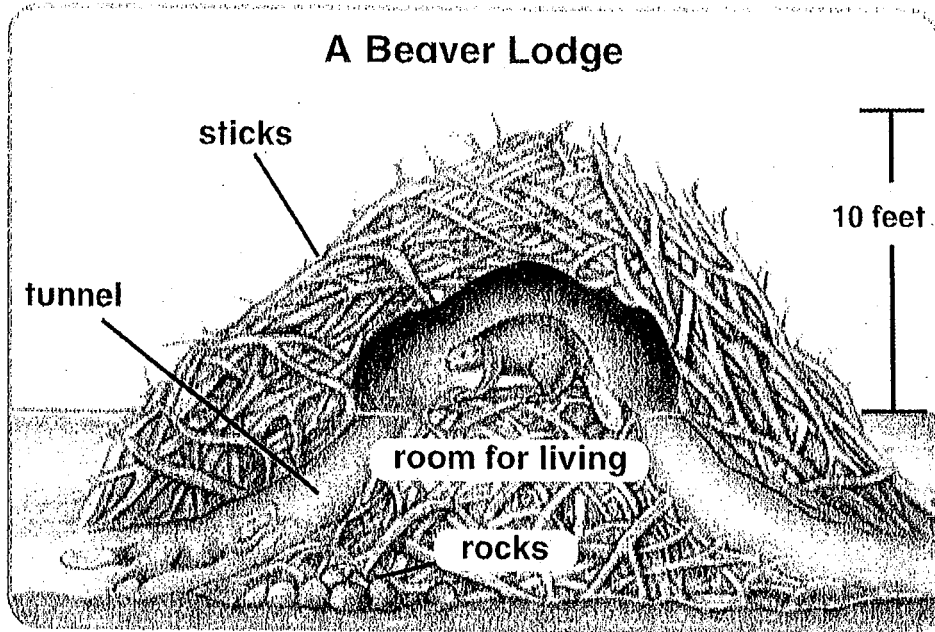
Building a Dam

Sometimes beavers cannot find standing water. Then they have to make it. They do this by building a dam. A dam is something that people or animals make to block moving water. Beavers find a stream near trees. Then they build their dam.



The beavers build a dam with rocks, sticks, and mud. They use their big, sharp teeth to cut down trees. They get sticks from these trees. They use their front feet like hands. They pile up the sticks and rocks. Then they use their front feet to pack mud between the sticks. Beavers can dam a stream in two or three days.

The dam stops the water in the stream from moving. The stream water becomes a pool of standing water. Now it is safe for the beavers to build a lodge.



▲ A beaver lodge rises about 10 feet above the water.

Building a Home

Beavers build a lodge almost the same way they build a dam. First, they pile up rocks and sticks. They pack them together with mud. Then they hollow out the center of the pile. Next, they make two tunnels. The tunnels go to the center of the pile. Then the beavers make a “room.” The room has one space for eating. There is another space for their kits, or baby beavers.

Beavers build. They change what the land looks like. They do this to build a safe home. Beavers truly are nature’s builders.

8. A habitat is
- (A) a place that changes the land around it.
 - (B) a place where an animal has its home.
 - (C) a place that no animals can live in.
 - (D) a place that is on both land and water.
9. Why are trees and standing water important to beavers?
- (A) Beavers need them for their habitat.
 - (B) Beavers need to live far away from them.
 - (C) Beavers use them to catch their food.
 - (D) They are near lakes and ponds.
10. Read this sentence from the passage.

They do not want moving water to displace or wash away their homes.

The word displace means

- (A) to put in a safe place.
- (B) to move or push out of place.
- (C) to place above something.
- (D) to put in the same place again.

11. What do you learn from the diagram in this passage?

- (A) how beavers change the land
- (B) where beavers place a dam
- (C) what a beaver lodge looks like
- (D) how tunnels are built

12. Read this sentence from the passage.

Beavers build a lodge almost the same way they build a dam.

This sentence tells you that

- (A) beaver dams are a little different from beaver lodges.
- (B) beaver dams and lodges are not different at all.
- (C) beaver dams are all the same size.
- (D) all beavers build dams in the same way.

13. Which detail would you find in the “Building a Home” section of the text?

- (A) Underwater tunnels go into beaver homes.
- (B) A dam blocks water.
- (C) Beavers use trees for food.
- (D) Beavers can build a dam in two to three days.

Use “Beavers” and “Nature’s Builders” to answer questions 14 and 15.

14. BOTH passages explain
- (A) why beavers have tails.
 - (B) how beavers build lodges.
 - (C) how beavers swim.
 - (D) what a mammal is.
15. Which passage would be more useful for finding information about the inside of a beaver lodge? Explain your answer.
