Name: _____ Date: _____

Beavers Build a Lodge

Circle group

A beaver needs a safe home. It needs deep water too. So a beaver builds a dam across a stream.

A beaver has sharp front teeth. It cuts down small trees with them. It drags the logs to the stream. It packs them with mud and stones. The dam holds back the water. A pond forms.

In the pond, the beavers build a lodge. A lodge is a home of sticks and mud. The door is under the water. A fox cannot get in.

The lodge has a dry room up high. The beaver family stays warm there. A beaver has a flat tail. It uses the tail to swim. It slaps the water if danger is near.

Questions

1. Why does a beaver build a dam?

_____

_____

2. What does a beaver use to cut small trees?

_____

_____

3. What is a lodge made of?

_____

_____

4. Where is the door of the lodge?

_____

_____

5. How does an underwater door keep beavers safe?

_____

_____

6. What does a beaver do with its flat tail?

_____

_____

Words to know

dam: a wall that holds back water in a stream
lodge: a beaver's home made of sticks and mud
stream: a small, narrow river
pond: a small pool of water
danger: something that could hurt you

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Beavers Build a Lodge

Triangle group

A beaver needs a safe home. It also needs deep water. So a beaver builds a dam across a stream.

A beaver has sharp front teeth. It uses them to cut down small trees. It drags the logs and sticks to the stream. Then it packs them together with mud and stones. The dam holds back the water, and a pond forms.

In the middle of the pond, the beavers build a lodge. A lodge is a home made of sticks and mud. The door is under the water. A fox or a coyote cannot easily get inside.

Above the water, the lodge has a dry room. A beaver family stays warm and safe there. The beavers also have a flat tail. They use it to swim and to slap the water if danger is near.

Questions

1. Why does a beaver build a dam?

_____

_____

2. What does a beaver use to cut down small trees?

_____

_____

3. What is a lodge made of?

_____

_____

4. Where is the door of the lodge?

_____

_____

5. How does an underwater door help keep the beavers safe?

_____

_____

6. What does a beaver do with its flat tail?

_____

_____

Words to know

dam: a wall that holds back water in a stream
lodge: a beaver's home made of sticks and mud
stream: a small, narrow river
pond: a small pool of water
danger: something that could hurt you

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Beavers Build a Lodge

Square group

A beaver needs both a safe home and plenty of deep water. To get them, a beaver builds a dam across a stream.

Beavers have sharp, strong front teeth, which they use to cut down small trees. They drag the logs and branches to the stream and then pack them tightly together with mud and stones. The dam holds back the flowing water, and slowly a pond forms behind it.

In the middle of the pond, the beavers construct a lodge, which is a home made of sticks and mud. Its entrance is hidden under the water, so a fox or a coyote cannot easily reach the family inside.

Above the waterline, the lodge has a dry room where the beaver family stays warm and safe. A beaver also has a broad, flat tail. It uses the tail for swimming, and it slaps the water to warn the others when danger is near.

Questions

1. Why does a beaver build a dam across a stream?

_____

_____

2. What do beavers use to cut down small trees?

_____

_____

3. What materials make up a lodge?

_____

_____

4. Where is the entrance to the lodge hidden?

_____

_____

5. How does a hidden underwater entrance protect the beaver family?

_____

_____

6. What are two things a beaver does with its broad, flat tail?

_____

_____

Words to know

dam: a wall that holds back water in a stream
lodge: a beaver's home made of sticks and mud
stream: a small, narrow river
pond: a small pool of water
danger: something that could hurt you

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Beavers Build a Lodge

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Beavers Build a Lodge

Easier · 118 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.5

1. It makes a pond with deep water for the home.
2. Its sharp front teeth.
3. Sticks and mud.
4. Under the water.
5. A fox cannot get in.
6. It swims, and it slaps the water if danger is near.

Triangle: Beavers Build a Lodge

This passage · 136 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.9

1. It makes a pond with deep water for the beaver's home.
2. Its sharp front teeth.
3. Sticks and mud.
4. Under the water.
5. A fox or a coyote cannot easily get inside.
6. It swims with it and slaps the water if danger is near.

Square: Beavers Build a Lodge

Harder · 153 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.3

1. It forms a pond with deep water for the beaver's home.
2. Their sharp, strong front teeth.
3. Sticks and mud.
4. Under the water.
5. A fox or a coyote cannot easily reach the family inside.
6. It swims with it, and it slaps the water to warn others of danger.