Name: _____ Date: _____

How a Beaver Dam Makes a Pond

Circle group

A beaver likes calm water. A stream is not calm. So the beaver builds a dam.

First, the beaver cuts small trees with its teeth. It drags the sticks to the stream. It lays them across the water.

Next, it packs mud and stones in the gaps. The dam gets strong. The water cannot get through.

The water backs up and makes a pond. Now the beaver can build a lodge. A lodge is a home of sticks and mud. Fish, frogs, and ducks may come too.

Questions

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

_____

_____

2. What does the beaver pack in the gaps?

_____

_____

3. What forms behind the dam?

_____

_____

4. What is a lodge?

_____

_____

5. Why does the water back up?

_____

_____

6. How does the new pond help other animals?

_____

_____

Words to know

dam: a wall that holds back water
stream: a small, narrow river
pond: a small body of calm water
lodge: a beaver's home made of sticks and mud

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: _____

How a Beaver Dam Makes a Pond

Triangle group

A beaver likes to live near calm water. But a stream keeps moving. So the beaver builds a dam to slow it down.

First, the beaver cuts down small trees with its strong front teeth. Then it drags the sticks to the stream. It lays them across the water, side by side.

Next, the beaver packs mud and stones into the gaps. The dam gets thick and strong. The water cannot rush through, so it backs up behind the dam.

Soon the water spreads out and makes a pond. Now the beaver has a safe place to build a lodge. The lodge is a home made of sticks and mud. Fish, frogs, and ducks may come to live in the new pond too.

Questions

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

_____

_____

2. What does the beaver pack into the gaps of the dam?

_____

_____

3. What forms behind the dam?

_____

_____

4. What is a lodge?

_____

_____

5. Why does the water back up behind the dam?

_____

_____

6. How might the new pond help other animals?

_____

_____

Words to know

dam: a wall that holds back water
stream: a small, narrow river
pond: a small body of calm water
lodge: a beaver's home made of sticks and mud

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: _____

How a Beaver Dam Makes a Pond

Square group

A beaver prefers to live beside calm water, but a stream never stays still. To slow the current down, the beaver constructs a dam.

To begin, the beaver gnaws through small trees with its powerful front teeth. Then it drags the branches to the stream and lays them across the water, side by side.

Afterward, the beaver packs mud and stones into every gap. The dam becomes thick and sturdy, and the water cannot rush through it, so the stream backs up behind the wall.

Before long, the water spreads out and forms a pond. The beaver now has a safe place to build its lodge, which is a home made of sticks and mud. Fish, frogs, and ducks may also move into the new pond.

Questions

1. What does the beaver use to gnaw through small trees?

_____

_____

2. What does the beaver pack into every gap of the dam?

_____

_____

3. What forms behind the dam when the water spreads out?

_____

_____

4. What is a lodge made of?

_____

_____

5. Why does the stream back up behind the dam?

_____

_____

6. How might the new pond benefit other animals?

_____

_____

Words to know

dam: a wall that holds back water
stream: a small, narrow river
pond: a small body of calm water
lodge: a beaver's home made of sticks and mud

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: How a Beaver Dam Makes a Pond

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

Circle: How a Beaver Dam Makes a Pond

Easier · 87 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.2

1. Its teeth.
2. Mud and stones.
3. A pond.
4. A home of sticks and mud.
5. The dam is strong, so the water cannot get through.
6. Fish, frogs, and ducks can live there.

Triangle: How a Beaver Dam Makes a Pond

This passage · 123 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.2

1. Its strong front teeth.
2. Mud and stones.
3. A pond.
4. A home made of sticks and mud.
5. The dam is thick, so the water cannot rush through it.
6. Fish, frogs, and ducks can live there.

Square: How a Beaver Dam Makes a Pond

Harder · 126 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.6

1. Its powerful front teeth.
2. Mud and stones.
3. A pond.
4. Sticks and mud.
5. The dam is thick and sturdy, so the water cannot rush through it.
6. Fish, frogs, and ducks may move in and live there.