Name: _____ Date: _____

Busy Beavers Build a Pond

Circle group

A beaver lives by streams and ponds. It has big front teeth that keep growing. Beavers cut down small trees with them.

Some streams are too shallow and too fast. So beavers build a dam. They pile sticks, mud, and stones across the stream. The water slows down. A pond forms behind the dam.

The pond is a good home. Deep water keeps wolves away. The beavers build a lodge in the pond. A lodge is a heap of sticks and mud with a room inside. The way in is under the water. Enemies cannot find it easily.

In winter, the top of the pond may freeze. The beavers stay warm in the lodge. They swim under the ice to eat the branches they saved.

A dam helps other animals, too. Fish, frogs, ducks, and insects can live in the pond.

Questions

1. What do beavers cut down with their big front teeth?

_____

_____

2. What do beavers pile across a stream to make a dam?

_____

_____

3. What is a lodge?

_____

_____

4. Where is the way into the lodge?

_____

_____

5. Why does a pond keep beavers safe?

_____

_____

6. How does a dam help other animals?

_____

_____

Words to know

dam: a wall of sticks and mud that holds back water
lodge: a beaver's home built of sticks and mud
shallow: not deep
pile: a heap of things stacked together

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: _____

Busy Beavers Build a Pond

Triangle group

A beaver lives near streams and ponds. It has big front teeth that never stop growing. Beavers use these teeth to cut down small trees.

A stream can be too shallow and too fast for a beaver family. So the beavers make a dam. They pile up sticks, mud, and stones across the stream. The water slows down and spreads out. Soon a pond forms behind the dam.

The pond is a good home. Deep water keeps wolves and other hunters away. The beavers build a lodge in the pond. A lodge is a heap of sticks and mud with a room inside. The way in is under the water, so it is hard for enemies to find.

In winter, the pond may freeze on top. The beavers stay snug inside the lodge. They swim under the ice to get to a pile of branches they saved to eat.

A beaver dam also helps other animals. Fish, frogs, ducks, and insects can live in the new pond.

Questions

1. What do beavers use their big front teeth to do?

_____

_____

2. What do beavers pile across a stream to make a dam?

_____

_____

3. What is a lodge?

_____

_____

4. Where is the way into the lodge?

_____

_____

5. Why does a pond help keep beavers safe?

_____

_____

6. How does a beaver dam help other animals?

_____

_____

Words to know

dam: a wall of sticks and mud that holds back water
lodge: a beaver's home built of sticks and mud
shallow: not deep
snug: warm and cozy
pile: a heap of things stacked together

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: _____

Busy Beavers Build a Pond

Square group

A beaver makes its home near streams and ponds. It has enormous front teeth that never stop growing, and it uses them to cut down small trees.

Sometimes a stream is too shallow and swift for a beaver family to live in comfortably. In that case, the beavers construct a dam. They pile sticks, mud, and stones across the stream, and the water slows down and spreads out. Before long, a pond has formed behind the dam.

This pond makes an excellent home. The deep water keeps wolves and other hunters from getting close. Within the pond, the beavers build a lodge, which is a heap of sticks and mud with a room inside. Its entrance lies under the water, which makes it very difficult for enemies to find.

During winter, the surface of the pond may freeze over. The beavers remain snug inside their lodge, and they swim beneath the ice to reach a pile of branches that they stored earlier to eat.

A beaver dam benefits many other animals as well. Fish, frogs, ducks, and insects can all live in the new pond.

Questions

1. What do beavers use their enormous front teeth to do?

_____

_____

2. What materials do beavers pile across a stream to build a dam?

_____

_____

3. What is a lodge?

_____

_____

4. Where is the entrance to the lodge located?

_____

_____

5. Why does a deep pond help keep beavers safe?

_____

_____

6. In what way does a beaver dam benefit other animals?

_____

_____

Words to know

dam: a wall of sticks and mud that holds back water
lodge: a beaver's home built of sticks and mud
shallow: not deep
snug: warm and cozy
pile: a heap of things stacked together

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: Busy Beavers Build a Pond

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

Circle: Busy Beavers Build a Pond

Easier · 141 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.5

1. Small trees.
2. Sticks, mud, and stones.
3. A heap of sticks and mud with a room inside.
4. Under the water.
5. Deep water keeps wolves away.
6. It makes a pond where fish, frogs, ducks, and insects can live.

Triangle: Busy Beavers Build a Pond

This passage · 167 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.3

1. Cut down small trees.
2. Sticks, mud, and stones.
3. A heap of sticks and mud with a room inside.
4. Under the water.
5. Deep water keeps hunters such as wolves away.
6. It makes a pond where fish, frogs, ducks, and insects can live.

Square: Busy Beavers Build a Pond

Harder · 185 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.1

1. Cut down small trees.
2. Sticks, mud, and stones.
3. A heap of sticks and mud with a room inside.
4. Under the water.
5. The deep water keeps wolves and other hunters from getting close.
6. It forms a pond where fish, frogs, ducks, and insects can live.