Name: _____ Date: _____

# How Beavers Turn a Stream into a Pond

Circle group

A beaver wants a safe home with water all around. A stream may be too shallow. So the beaver builds a pond.

Beavers cut small trees with their strong front teeth. They drag the logs to the stream. They lay sticks across the water. They push mud and stones into the gaps. This wall is a dam.

The dam slows the water. Behind it, the water spreads out. A pond forms. Then the beavers build a lodge. A lodge is a dome of sticks and mud. Its door is under the water. Most animals cannot get in.

The pond helps other animals too. Ducks swim on it. Frogs lay eggs by it. Birds eat the insects.

Beavers fix the dam often. Moving water keeps pushing on it.

## Questions

**1. What do beavers cut trees with?**

_____

_____

**2. What is a dam?**

_____

_____

**3. What forms behind the dam?**

_____

_____

**4. Where is the door of a beaver lodge?**

_____

_____

**5. Why is a door under the water a good idea?**

_____

_____

**6. Why do beavers fix their dam often?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

dam: a wall built across a stream to hold back water
lodge: a beaver's home made of sticks and mud
shallow: not deep
stream: a small, narrow river
dome: a round shape, like half of a ball

## 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 Beavers Turn a Stream into a Pond

Triangle group

A beaver wants a safe home surrounded by water. Where a stream runs too shallow, a beaver builds its own pond.

First, beavers cut down small trees with their strong front teeth. They drag the logs and branches to the stream. They lay the sticks across the water, and they push mud and stones into the gaps. This wall is called a dam.

The dam slows the water down. Behind it, the water spreads out over low ground and a pond forms. Now the beavers can build a lodge, which is a dome of sticks and mud. The doorway is under the water, so most animals cannot get in.

The pond helps other animals too. Ducks swim on it, and frogs lay eggs at its edge. Many insects live there, and birds come to eat them.

Beavers keep fixing their dam, because moving water always pushes against it.

## Questions

**1. What do beavers use to cut down small trees?**

_____

_____

**2. What is a dam?**

_____

_____

**3. What forms behind the dam?**

_____

_____

**4. Where is the doorway to a beaver lodge?**

_____

_____

**5. Why is a doorway under the water a good idea?**

_____

_____

**6. Why do beavers keep fixing their dam?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

dam: a wall built across a stream to hold back water
lodge: a beaver's home made of sticks and mud
shallow: not deep
stream: a small, narrow river
dome: a round shape, like half of a ball

## 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 Beavers Turn a Stream into a Pond

Square group

A beaver prefers a safe home that is surrounded by water, and where a stream runs too shallow, the beaver constructs its own pond.

First, beavers gnaw down small trees with their powerful front teeth and drag the logs and branches to the stream. They lay the sticks across the current, and they pack mud and stones into the gaps between them. The finished wall is called a dam.

The dam slows the moving water. Behind it, the water spreads out over low ground, and a pond slowly forms. Then the beavers can build a lodge, which is a dome of sticks and mud. The doorway sits beneath the surface, so most animals cannot get inside.

The pond also benefits many other animals. Ducks swim on it, frogs lay their eggs along its edge, and many insects live there, which attracts birds that eat them.

Beavers keep repairing their dam, because moving water constantly pushes against it.

## Questions

**1. What do beavers use to gnaw down small trees?**

_____

_____

**2. What is a dam?**

_____

_____

**3. What slowly forms behind the dam?**

_____

_____

**4. Where is the doorway to a beaver lodge?**

_____

_____

**5. Why is an underwater doorway helpful to the beavers?**

_____

_____

**6. Why do beavers keep repairing their dam?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

dam: a wall built across a stream to hold back water
lodge: a beaver's home made of sticks and mud
shallow: not deep
stream: a small, narrow river
dome: a round shape, like half of a ball

## 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 Beavers Turn a Stream into a Pond

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

### Circle: How Beavers Turn a Stream into a Pond

Easier · 127 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.1

1. Their strong front teeth.
2. A wall of sticks, mud and stones across a stream.
3. A pond, as the water spreads out.
4. Under the water.
5. Most animals cannot get in, so the beavers are safe.
6. Moving water keeps pushing on it.

### Triangle: How Beavers Turn a Stream into a Pond

This passage · 148 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.1

1. Their strong front teeth.
2. A wall of sticks, mud and stones across a stream.
3. A pond, as the water spreads out over low ground.
4. Under the water.
5. Most animals cannot get in, so the beavers stay safe.
6. The moving water always pushes against it.

### Square: How Beavers Turn a Stream into a Pond

Harder · 157 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.7

1. Their powerful front teeth.
2. A wall of sticks, mud and stones built across a stream.
3. A pond, as the water spreads out over low ground.
4. Beneath the surface of the water.
5. Most animals cannot get inside, so the beavers are protected.
6. Moving water constantly pushes against it.