Name: _____ Date: _____

The Beaver Whose Dam Was Too Tall

Circle group

Bram the beaver wanted the best dam on the river. Each day he chewed sticks and stacked them high. He packed mud between them. His dam grew and grew.

"Bigger is better," Bram said.

An otter swam by. "Bram, the water is deep up here," she said. "It is flowing over the bank."

"Good!" said Bram. "I have a big pond!"

But the water kept rising. It crept into the burrow of a vole family. It covered the path where rabbits ate clover. The little animals stood by the bank. They looked worried.

Bram saw them. He felt a lump in his throat. His dam was tall, but it hurt his neighbors.

That night he pulled out the top sticks. The water went down slowly. The burrows were dry again. Bram built a new top. It was lower and just right.

"A dam should help the whole river," he said. "It should not help just the beaver."

Questions

1. What did Bram want to build?

_____

_____

2. What did Bram pack between the sticks?

_____

_____

3. Whose burrow did the water creep into?

_____

_____

4. Where did the rabbits eat clover?

_____

_____

5. What did Bram do to fix the problem?

_____

_____

6. Why did Bram feel a lump in his throat?

_____

_____

7. What lesson does the story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

dam: a wall built across a river to hold back water
burrow: a hole in the ground where a small animal lives
bank: the land along the edge of a river
crept: moved slowly and quietly

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: _____

The Beaver Whose Dam Was Too Tall

Triangle group

Bram the beaver wanted to build the best dam on the river. Every day he chewed down sticks and stacked them high. He packed mud between them. His dam grew and grew.

"Bigger is better," Bram said.

An otter swam by. "Bram, the water is getting very deep up here," she said. "It is flowing over the bank."

"Good!" said Bram. "Then I have a big pond!"

But the water kept rising. It crept into the burrow of a family of voles. It covered the path where the rabbits ate clover. Soon the little animals stood by the bank with worried faces.

Bram saw them and felt a lump in his throat. His dam was tall, but it was hurting his neighbors.

That evening he pulled out the top row of sticks. The water slowly went down. The burrows were dry again. Bram built a new top that was lower and just right.

"A dam should help the whole river," he said, "not just the beaver."

Questions

1. What did Bram want to build?

_____

_____

2. What did Bram pack between the sticks?

_____

_____

3. Whose burrow did the water creep into?

_____

_____

4. Where did the rabbits usually eat clover?

_____

_____

5. What did Bram do to fix the problem?

_____

_____

6. Why did Bram feel a lump in his throat?

_____

_____

7. What lesson does the story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

dam: a wall built across a river to hold back water
burrow: a hole in the ground where a small animal lives
voles: small furry animals that look like mice
bank: the land along the edge of a river
crept: moved slowly and quietly

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: _____

The Beaver Whose Dam Was Too Tall

Square group

Bram the beaver was determined to build the finest dam on the entire river. Every day he gnawed down sticks and stacked them higher and higher, packing mud into every gap between them. His dam grew taller and taller.

"Bigger is always better," Bram declared.

An otter swam past and called out, "Bram, the water is getting very deep up here. It is already flowing over the bank."

"Wonderful!" said Bram. "Then I have a huge pond!"

But the water kept on rising. It crept into the burrow of a family of voles, and it covered the path where the rabbits nibbled their clover. Soon the little animals stood along the bank with worried faces.

When Bram noticed them, he felt a lump rise in his throat. His dam was tall indeed, but it was harming his neighbors.

That evening he pulled out the top row of sticks, and the water slowly drained away. The burrows became dry again. Bram built a new top that was lower and just right.

"A dam ought to help the whole river," he said, "and not merely the beaver."

Questions

1. What was Bram determined to build?

_____

_____

2. What did Bram pack into the gaps between the sticks?

_____

_____

3. Whose burrow did the water creep into?

_____

_____

4. Where did the rabbits usually nibble their clover?

_____

_____

5. What did Bram do to solve the problem?

_____

_____

6. Why did Bram feel a lump rise in his throat?

_____

_____

7. What lesson does the story teach?

_____

_____

Words to know

dam: a wall built across a river to hold back water
burrow: a hole in the ground where a small animal lives
voles: small furry animals that look like mice
bank: the land along the edge of a river
crept: moved slowly and quietly

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: The Beaver Whose Dam Was Too Tall

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

Circle: The Beaver Whose Dam Was Too Tall

Easier · 157 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.1

1. The best dam on the river.
2. Mud.
3. A vole family's burrow.
4. On a path that the water covered.
5. He pulled out the top sticks and built a lower top.
6. He saw that his tall dam hurt his neighbors.
7. What we build should be good for everyone around us.

Triangle: The Beaver Whose Dam Was Too Tall

This passage · 166 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.2

1. The best dam on the river.
2. Mud.
3. A family of voles.
4. On a path that the water covered.
5. He pulled out the top row of sticks and built a lower top.
6. He saw that his tall dam was hurting his neighbors.
7. What we build should be good for everyone around us.

Square: The Beaver Whose Dam Was Too Tall

Harder · 185 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.6

1. The finest dam on the entire river.
2. Mud.
3. A family of voles.
4. On a path that the water covered.
5. He pulled out the top row of sticks and built a lower top.
6. He realized that his tall dam was harming his neighbors.
7. What we build should be good for everyone around us.