

Name: _____

Date: _____

Busy Beavers' Big Build



On a cool spring morning, Mrs. Harper told her second-grade class they were visiting Riverside Nature Park to look for beavers. The students cheered. Emma whispered to Tyler, “Do you think we’ll really see one?” “I hope so!” he said.

At the park, Ranger Olivia welcomed the class. “Today we’re going to discover how beavers build amazing homes,” she said. Along the trail, Maya spotted small trees with pointed stumps. Ranger Olivia explained that beavers use their strong front teeth to cut trees and branches. Their teeth keep growing, so chewing wood helps keep them the right length.

At a quiet pond, the students saw a large pile of sticks, branches, and mud. “That’s a beaver lodge,” Ranger Olivia said. A beaver family lives inside, with an underwater entrance that helps keep them safe. The lodge stays warm and dry.

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Nearby, a dam stretched across the river. It was made of branches, sticks, rocks, and mud. Ranger Olivia explained that the dam slows the water and creates a calm, deep pond. "The beavers changed the river," Maya said. "They built something that protects their home," Ranger Olivia replied.

Suddenly, a brown beaver swam across the pond with a branch in its mouth. It climbed onto the dam, pushed the branch into an opening, and packed mud around it. "It's fixing the dam!" Ethan whispered. Then the beaver splashed back into the water to find another branch.

Ranger Olivia explained that beavers often check and repair their dams. "Engineers build things that solve problems," she said. "Beavers are engineers too." Emma smiled. "I never knew animals could be engineers."

Before leaving, the students wrote in their nature journals. They recorded that beavers use strong teeth to chew trees, build dams to slow water, make lodges to protect their families, and work together. "Good scientists observe carefully," Mrs. Harper said.

On the bus ride home, Emma said, "I used to think beavers were just animals that liked water. Now I know they're amazing builders." Tyler laughed. "They use sticks, mud, teamwork, and lots of hard work." The class had learned that nature is full of clever problem-solvers.



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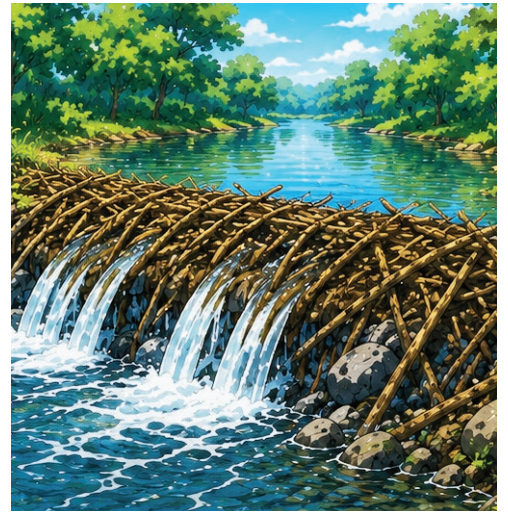
Multiple Choice

1. Where did Mrs. Harper take her class?
 - A. The zoo
 - B. Riverside Nature Park
 - C. A farm
 - D. The beach
2. Who met the class at the park?
 - A. Mr. Lopez
 - B. Ranger Olivia
 - C. Emma
 - D. Tyler
3. What did the students notice on the trees?
 - A. Apples
 - B. Bird nests
 - C. Beaver chew marks
 - D. Flowers
4. What do beavers use to cut down small trees?
 - A. Sharp claws
 - B. Their strong front teeth
 - C. Rocks
 - D. Their tails
5. What is a beaver lodge?
 - A. A pile of leaves
 - B. A cave
 - C. A home where a beaver family lives
 - D. A bridge



Busy Beavers' Big Build

6. Why do beavers build dams?
 - A. To catch fish
 - B. To make the water deeper and slower
 - C. To stop boats
 - D. To grow flowers
7. What did the students watch the beaver do?
 - A. Climb a tree
 - B. Catch a fish
 - C. Repair the dam
 - D. Build a nest
8. What did Ranger Olivia say beavers are?
 - A. Farmers
 - B. Engineers
 - C. Bakers
 - D. Teachers
9. Which word best describes the beavers?
 - A. Busy
 - B. Sleepy
 - C. Careless
 - D. Loud
10. What lesson does the story teach?
 - A. Animals can solve problems by working hard.
 - B. Rivers should always be fast.
 - C. Trees never grow near water.
 - D. Beavers only work at night.



Busy Beavers' Big Build

Short Answer

11. Why were the students excited to visit Riverside Nature Park?

12. Name four things beavers use to build their dams or lodges.

13. Why do beavers build a dam?

Vocabulary

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| A. to watch carefully | B. a home built by beavers |
| C. a wall that slows water | D. someone who designs and builds things |

14. dam _____ 15. lodge _____ 16. engineer _____ 17. observe _____

Cause & Effect

18. **Cause:** The beavers built a dam.

Effect: _____

19. **Cause:** The students carefully recorded observations.

Effect: _____

Busy Beavers' Big Build

Sequence

20. Number the events in order from 1–6.

_____ The class watched a beaver repair the dam.

_____ Ranger Olivia welcomed the class.

_____ The students found beaver chew marks.

_____ The class saw the beaver lodge.

_____ The students wrote in their journals.

_____ The class rode the bus home.

Critical Thinking

21. What is the story mostly about?

22. Write three things the students learned about beavers.

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

ANSWER KEY

Multiple Choice

1. Where did Mrs. Harper take her class?
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ANSWER KEY

Short Answer

11. Why were the students excited to visit Riverside Nature Park?

The students were excited because they hoped to see real beavers and learn about how they build their homes.

12. Name four things beavers use to build their dams or lodges.

Possible answers: sticks, branches, mud, rocks, small trees

13. Why do beavers build a dam?

Beavers build dams to slow the water and make a safe pond.

Vocabulary

A. to watch carefully

B. a home built by beavers

C. a wall that slows water

D. someone who designs and builds things

14. dam C 15. lodge B 16. engineer D 17. observe A

Cause & Effect

18. **Cause:** The beavers built a dam.

Possible answers: The river slowed down. A pond formed.

Effect: **The beavers had a safer home.**

19. **Cause:** The students carefully recorded observations.

Possible answers: The students learned many new facts.

Effect: **They saw the beaver repair the dam. They filled their journals.**

ANSWER KEY

Sequence

20. Number the events in order from 1–6.

4 The class watched a beaver repair the dam.

1 Ranger Olivia welcomed the class.

2 The students found beaver chew marks.

3 The class saw the beaver lodge.

5 The students wrote in their journals.

6 The class rode the bus home.

Critical Thinking

21. What is the story mostly about?

The story is mostly about students learning how beavers build dams and homes and how they are clever, hardworking builders.

22. Write three things the students learned about beavers.

A. **Beavers use their strong teeth to chew trees and branches.**

B. **Beavers build dams to slow the water and make a pond.**

C. **Beavers build lodges to keep their families safe, warm, and dry.**