

Beavers at Work

Name: _____

Read the passage. Answer the questions in complete sentences.

A beaver's front teeth never stop growing. They wear down as the beaver gnaws, which is lucky, because a beaver gnaws a great deal.

Beavers build dams across streams. The dam slows the water and spreads it out into a pond. In the middle of that pond the beaver builds a lodge, with underwater doors that a wolf or a coyote cannot use.

The pond is not only a beaver's home. Ducks nest at its edges, fish shelter in it, moose feed on the plants that grow there, and the slowed water soaks into the ground instead of rushing away.

This is why beavers are sometimes called ecosystem engineers. An animal cutting down a tree for its own reasons ends up building a home for dozens of others.

Non-fiction · 128 words

1. Why is it lucky that a beaver's teeth wear down?

2. How does the lodge keep the beaver safe?

3. Name three animals that benefit from a beaver pond.

4. What is the main idea of this passage?

Beavers at Work — Answer Key

1. Its front teeth never stop growing, so gnawing keeps them at the right length. *(Cause and effect)*
2. It sits in the middle of the pond and its doors are underwater, where predators like wolves and coyotes cannot follow. *(Recall)*
3. Ducks, fish and moose. *(Recall)*
4. Beavers change the land around them, and in building for themselves they create habitat that many other animals depend on. *(Main idea)*