

Name _____

There's No Place Like Home

Read the story. Then circle the correct answer for each question below.



Slap! The beaver brings his flat tail down hard on the surface of the water. The loud noise warns his family: Danger is near! The big rodent watches as an otter surfaces farther down the bank and disappears around the bend. Satisfied that the danger has passed, the beaver goes back to work. With his sharp teeth, he gnaws the trunk of a small tree. Taking a final chomp, he scampers away—just as the tree crashes to the ground.

The beaver has been busy all spring and summer. He and his family have built a dam upstream and one downstream in a slowly running creek. The pond they've created is a perfect place for their lodge—and perfect for many other wetland animals. Deer come to drink the clear, cool water. A loon lands gracefully on the water's surface. Fish swim below. A chorus of frogs croaks on the muddy banks. Bats swoop down to dine on swarms of buzzing mosquitoes.



Beavers are amazing architects. They've built not just a home for themselves but a habitat for a whole animal community. But their work isn't done. Winter is coming. They'll have to use some of the branches of the fallen tree to enlarge and repair their home. The rest will be stored underwater. That way, even when the pond is covered with ice, the family will have plenty to eat. They'll be comfortable in their cozy lodge. The large room above the water will keep them warm, dry, and safe. The only way into the lodge is through several underwater tunnels. Unwelcome visitors will have to brave the icy water to reach them. When the kits get hungry, one of the adults will swim out and grab twigs from their storage pile. The young family has worked hard to build their home. But it's been worth it. Together, they'll wait out the long, cold winter.

1. Beavers are (a) reptiles, (b) robots, (c) rodents.
2. The beaver in the story slapped his tail on the water to (a) wake his family, (b) warn his family, (c) wash mud off his tail.
3. Beavers cut trees with their (a) sharp nails, (b) sharp tails, (c) sharp teeth.
4. Entrances to the beavers' lodge are through (a) underwater tunnels, (b) underwater slides, (c) holes in the ice.
5. Young beavers are called (a) kits, (b) kids, (c) cats.
6. The beavers have created a pond by (a) building dams upstream and downstream, (b) digging with their tails, (c) hiring Ponds 'R Us.
7. Their work is similar to the work of (a) astronauts, (b) architects, (c) attorneys.

On another piece of paper, write a story about how another wetland animal feels about the new pond.