

North American “Puffy” Beaver
By Tricia Witt, Jane O’Hara and Janet Christnacht

Grade Level: Elementary

Subject: Social Studies, Art, Science

Duration:

Montana Standards:

Social Studies

1. Standard 3:benchmark 3,4,5,7
2. Standard 4:benchmark 1,3,4,7
3. Standard 5:benchmark 2
4. Standard 6:benchmark 3

Art Standards:

1. Standard 1: benchmark 2, 3, 4
2. Standard 2: benchmark 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
3. Standard 6: benchmark 4

Science Standards:

1. Standard 1: benchmark 1, 2, 3, 4
2. Standard 3: benchmark 1

Description: The purpose of this lesson is to familiarize students with the anatomy of the beaver and the importance of each body part to its livelihood.

Goals:

1. Students will learn five different parts of the beaver.
2. Students will learn the importance of each part.
3. Students will create the five sections using their artistic skills.
4. Students will demonstrate what they have learned.

Objectives:

1. The students will work in small groups investigating through the use of the Internet and or other reference material, their specific beaver body part.
2. Students will write down their research facts on 4X6 inch index cards.
3. The students will construct the body part that teacher has provided them.
4. The students will present their facts and show their beaver body part.

Materials:

- | | |
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| 1. Internet | 7. Pencils |
| 2. Library reference materials | 8. Bulletin board paper |
| 3. Beaver body parts (to scale) –
provided by teacher | 9. Different mediums |
| 4. Stapler | 10.North American Beaver
diagram/poster |
| 5. Newspaper | 11.Tape |
| 6. Index Cards | |

Procedure:

1. The students will see the poster of the anatomy of the North American Beaver and discuss each part and possible functions of each body part.
2. Divide students in small groups, giving each group an index card for them to write research upon for their specific beaver body part.
 - ✚ **Head: small, dark eyes, small ears, and small mouth with teeth that always grow, possibly brain**
 - ✚ **Body: back and belly, possibly internal organs**
 - ✚ **Tail: thick, heavy flat tail**
 - ✚ **Back legs: short legs**
 - ✚ **Hands: 5 fingered clawed hands**
3. Allow the students 30 minutes to research their topic.
4. When the information meets teacher requirements, give the group a precut pattern of their beaver body part and have them construct it in the same manner that would a pillow. Use a stapler to staple around the sides of the beaver body part and stuff it with a material such as newspaper to make a “puffy” beaver.
5. When all groups have completed the activities, they will regroup as a full class to give an oral presentation of the beaver body part they were to research.
6. The parts will be attached by gluing, taping, stapling, or any suitable method to the 3-D presentation of the North American “puffy” Beaver.

Assessment:

Cooperation, participation, and presentation will be the method of assessing this project.

Extensions:

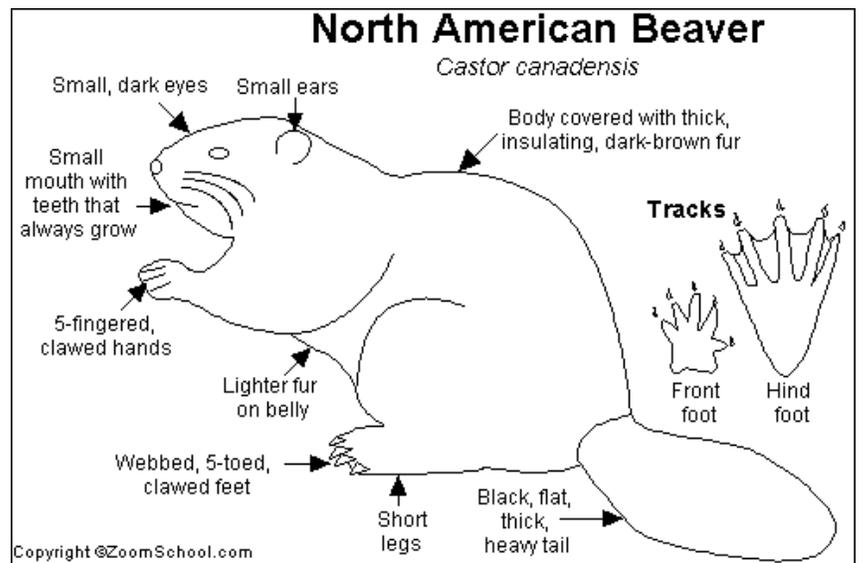
Beaver Lodge Cookies

1 box fudge brownie mix	1 teaspoon cinnamon
2 cups Fiber One cereal	1/3 cup water
1 Tablespoon vegetable oil	2 Tablespoon mini chocolate chips
2 teaspoons vanilla	1 egg

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix all ingredients. Drop on cookie sheet and bake 10 to 12 minutes. Enjoy your cookie lodge after a busy night of work.

Beaver Anatomy:

The beaver is a large, semi-aquatic rodent with a large, flattened tail. It is a strong swimmer and can swim up to 5 miles per hour (8 kph). The beaver can swim underwater for up to 15 minutes. Young beavers are called kits. Beavers live in forests in North America and in parts of Europe and Asia. Beavers do not hibernate over winter, but they will stay in their lodge, where they have stored enough food to last until spring.



Beaver Lodges and Dams: Beavers build sophisticated lodges out of sticks and mud. The dome-shaped lodge is built in water and only has underwater entrances. If the local pond water isn't deep enough, the beaver will build a dam (or a series of dams) downstream from where the beaver wants to build a lodge. The dam forms a deep pond. Beavers cut down trees for the dam using their strong teeth. The water in the pond must be deep enough so that the pond bottom won't freeze in winter, blocking the lodge's entrance.

Anatomy: Beavers are about 3 ft (0.9 m) long; their flat, thick tail is about 1 ft (30 cm) long. They weigh 30-70 pounds (14-32 kg). Like all rodents, their teeth continue to grow their entire lives. Their ears and nostrils can close while the beaver is underwater. While swimming, transparent eyelids protect their eyes. Beavers can close their mouth by closing a flap located behind their teeth, allowing them to chew while holding their breath.

Diet: Beavers are **herbivores** (plant-eaters). They eat tree bark, leaves, roots, twigs, and water plants.

Predators: The beaver is hunted by many animals, including coyotes, wolves, [bears](#), lynxes, and wolverines. Minks, [owls](#) and hawks prey upon young beavers. Beavers cannot move very quickly on land, so their best defense from predators is to retreat into the water and go into their lodge.

Referenced from:

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/mammals/rodent/Beavprintout.shtml>