



# *The Clever and Busy Builders*



By: Sheri Horsfall and Pam Swanson

**Subject:** History, Science, Language and Math

**Description:**

The purpose of this lesson is to learn about the beaver its habitat and compare its habitat with other animals.

**Grades:** 3-4

**Focus:**

1. Students will read and discuss orally with the teacher, "The Life History of the American Beaver", by: Castor Candensis

2. Students will read and view animal habitats with the teacher.

A. Classified as: Builders, burrowers, weavers. Borrowers and Communities, from the book "Secrets of Nature Animal Homes; a Joshua Morris book from The Reader's Digest Association, Inc.

3. After reading, listening and viewing animal homes, the students will choose one animal home and compare to a beaver's home.

They will record their descriptions on a worksheet page.

**Beaver Home:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Other Animal Home:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Extension:**

With a partner discuss how you described your animal homes. Talk about the ways the animal home are alike and ways they are different. Then classify the animals by the types of homes they live in.

4. Students will play Making Beaver Tracks

A. Divide the class into groups of four.

1. Each group will need a game board, a penny, and a set of question cards that they will assemble through their own research. Students will cut, paste and arrange their questions and answers on a cardboard surface to use to advanced to the winning square.

2. After reading the directions they will take turns and play the game.

5. Students will solve math problems in an activity called: **Pond Party Problem Solvers.**

Below are samples of questions that may be used.

1. Martha Mayfly decided to have a party for the Pond Community. To seat everyone, she set up 8 tables of 6 and 3 tables of 8. How many could Martha have to her party? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Harry Heron's family of 5, Tom Toads family of 8 and Billy Fish's family of 6 all went to Martha's party How many chairs were empty? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Martha Mayfly counted 70 friends that were coming to her party. She decided to serve each person 3 cookies, 4 pieces of candy and 5 bites of cheese. Altogether, how many cookies, pieces of candy and bites of cheese did she have to buy? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Ronnie Raccoon was not invited to Martha Mayfly's party because they do not get along. So Ronnie decided to have his own party. He invited 54 friends to his party and 24 of those were invited to Martha's party. However 15 of them decided to go to Ronnie's party. How many went to Ronnie's party? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Ronnie Raccoon decided to serve each person one glass of tea, 3 cookies and 2 hot dogs. How many things is he serving? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Barney beaver makes beautiful statues out of wood using his teeth. For Martha Mayfly's party, he only had enough time to make 42. If Martha was having 70 to her party and of those 70, 26 were children and the rest were couples, would Barney need to make more statues so than every couple received one? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, how many? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Since none of Martha's 12 fish friends could come to her party, she decided to have some Fancy Fish Food sent to them. She ordered 3 Wiggly Worms, 2 Mouthwatering Minnows and 6 Pleasing Pellets for each fish. But, two of her fish friends hate worms and 3 of them hate pellet. In all how many items were eaten? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Martha Mayfly decided to decorate with cattails for her party. She needs 5 cattails per vase and she needs 3 vases per table. If she is setting 6 tables, how many cattails does she need? \_\_\_\_\_ If she could only find 77 cattails, how many per vase could she use? \_\_\_\_\_ Will there be any left over? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, how many? \_\_\_\_\_

6. The students will write an acrostic poem using the word **Beaver**

Example:

**B**eavers are a nocturnal animal

**E**yesight is not well developed

**A**dults weigh between 45 and 60 lbs

**V**isit many ponds

**E**xcellent swimmers

**R**emain near the lodge for the first 30 days when they are kits

**Optional:**

Students could make a front and back beaver shape and place their poems inside

