

POP! TEACHER RESOURCE

Lesson Plan

Beaver Builders

Lesson Plan for *Beavers*

Grade 1

Objective

To help students use context clues to determine the meaning of words in a video about beavers.

Things Needed

- *Beavers* book
- Whiteboard
- Access to the “Beavers” web page on the Pop! website:
<http://popbooksonline.com/pond-animals/beavers>
- Access to the “How Beavers Build Dams” video listed on the “Explore Links” tab of the Pop! web page. This video can also be found here:
<https://www.pbs.org/video/nature-how-beavers-build-dams/>

Before the Activity

Write the following words on the whiteboard: *gnaw*, *incisor*, *interlocking*, *dredge*, *sediment*. Open the “Beavers” web page in your internet browser and pull up the “Explore Links” tab. Click the link to the “How Beavers Build Dams” video. Read *Beavers* out loud to students. Watch the first two minutes of the video.

Activity

Explain to students that they will use their knowledge from the book and from the video to figure out what the words on the board mean. Replay the section of the video in which each word is used and use the following prompts:

- **gnaw** (0:13–0:30): What is the beaver doing in the video? The video says beavers “gnaw through bark to eat the sugary layer underneath.” Given what you know about beavers, what do you think the word *gnaw* means?
- **incisor** (0:50–1:05): The video says, “The beaver’s incisors are strengthened with iron, which makes them orange.” What can you see that is orange in the video? What do you think the word *incisor* means?



- **interlocking** (1:23–1:32): The video says, “The whole family works together, carefully interlocking the timber.” What is the beaver doing with the piece of wood? What do you think the word *interlocking* means?
- **dredge** (1:33–1:50): The video says beavers “dredge mud from the pond bottom to seal the dam.” What do you see the beaver doing in this video? What do you think the word *dredge* means?
- **sediment** (1:40–1:50): The video says beavers “dredge mud from the pond bottom to seal the dam. Each pond traps several inches of sediment every year, so there’s plenty of it.” What do you think the word *sediment* means?

Evaluation

Could students determine the meaning of new vocabulary words from context clues in the video about beavers?

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the National Science Education Standards’ Content Standard C, grades K–4, and the Common Core State Standards’ reading standards for informational texts, grade 1 (RI 1.4).

