

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Busy Beaver

By Guy Belleranti

Imagine you're walking along a beautiful stream. You happen to spot a large pile of sticks, logs, mud, and stones right in the water. Chances are you're in beaver territory, and you're looking at either a beaver dam or beaver lodge.



## How do beavers get the sticks and logs for these structures?

They use their strong front incisor teeth to cut down trees and chop them into small pieces. They use their mouths and feet to



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can't build a dam. When this happens, they will build their lodge on the edge of the river or stream.

### Why do beavers live in lodges?

Lodges provide beavers with shelter from hot or cold weather and a safe place to hide from predators such as wolves, bobcats, cougars, and coyotes.

Lodges also give beavers a place to store food for the winter.



way so predators can't find their way in.

### Are there rooms inside of a beaver lodge?

Most beaver lodges have two rooms, called dens. One den is for drying off when a beaver exits the water. The other den is where the beavers spend most of their time.

### What kinds of foods do beavers eat?

They are herbivores, which means they eat only plants. They love to munch on woody plants like trees and shrubs, and aquatic plants like lily pads, sedges, and cattails.

### **Do beavers live alone?**

Each beaver lodge usually houses a father, a mother, and young beavers. Newborns are called kits. When they're just over a year old, they're called yearlings. Together this beaver family group is called a colony.

### **Where do beavers live?**

Beavers live across most of North America. They can also be found in Europe and Asia.

### **How big are beavers?**

Except for the South American

water. It has large webbed back feet for paddling through water. Its large, flat tail is perfect for steering. It also has a thick, waterproof fur coat.

### **How long can a beaver stay under water?**

Most humans can hold their breath for about a minute. A beaver has specially adapted lungs. It can hold its breath and stay underwater for as long as fifteen minutes.

### **Where can I learn more about beavers?**



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is usually built in the middle of a pond.

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1. Why do beavers build dams?

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- 
4. A capybara is...
    - a. the largest species of beaver
    - b. a rodent that is smaller than a beaver
    - c. a rodent that is larger than a beaver
    - d. a predator that hunts beavers
  5. How long can beavers stay underwater?
    - a. about half an hour
    - b. about a quarter of an hour
    - c. about an eighth of an hour
    - d. more than an hour

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The words below are vocabulary words from the article. Some letters are missing. Write the missing letters and then write the full words on the lines. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.

1. \_\_\_ e r \_\_\_ i t o \_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_



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4. \_\_\_ o d \_\_\_ n \_\_\_

**clue:** mammal with teeth that continually grow

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_ o \_\_\_ \_\_\_ y

**clue:** group of animals that live together

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_ i \_\_\_

**clue:** baby beavers less than a year old

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ r \_\_\_ i n \_\_\_ s

**clue:** young beavers that are between one and two years of age

7. \_\_\_\_\_

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5. How long can beavers stay underwater?
- a. about half an hour
  - b. about a quarter of an hour**
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## ANSWER KEY

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**clue:** baby beavers less than a year old

7. y e a r l i n g s

**clue:** young beavers that are between one and two years of age

7. yearlings