

Science Story Adventures



Animal Homes

Learning outcomes

» Students know different plants and animals inhabit different kinds of environments and have external features that help them thrive in different kinds of places.

(Grade 1 - Life Sciences)

» Students know rock, water, plants, and soil provide many resources, including food, fuel, and building materials, that humans use. (Grade 2 - Earth Science)

» Students know many plants depend on animals for pollination and seed dispersal, and animals depend on plants for food and shelter. (Grade 4 - Life Sciences)

From: California's Science Content Standards

Books we read

The Beaver Pond by Alvin Tresselt

Beaver at Long Pond by William T. George and Lindsay Barrett George

It's Moving Day! by Pamela Hickman

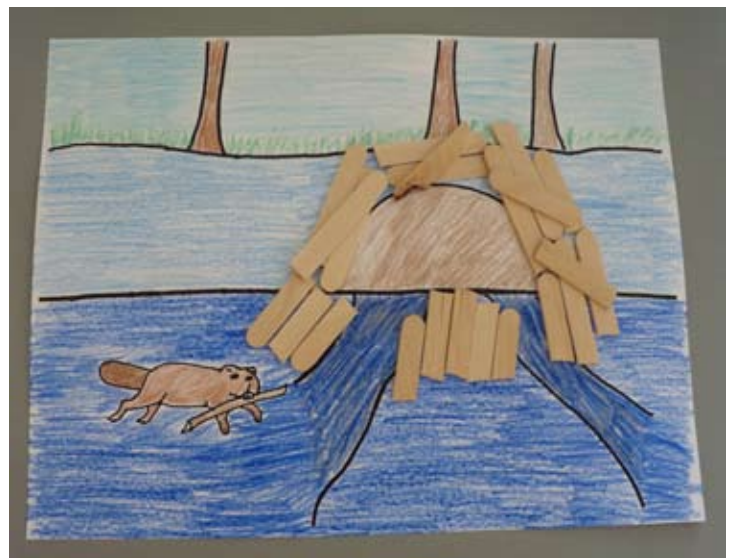
Activities we did

» We examined a beaver pelt and skull to determine what characteristics beavers have that make them adept at building their lodges and living in the water.

» We watched a short video of a beaver constructing a dam and a lodge. (<http://www.arkive.org/american-beaver/castor-canadensis/video-00.html>)

» We looked at specimens of other animal homes and identified who made them and how they did it.

Today's craft: Constructing a Beaver Lodge



You will need:

- » Beaver lodge picture (included)
- » Cardstock
- » Crayons or colored pencils
- » Popsicle sticks
- » Glue

Directions:

1. Print out the beaver lodge picture on cardstock.
2. Color in the picture. You can add other plants, beavers inside the lodge or other animals in the pond if you want.
3. Cut the popsicle sticks into smaller pieces. Have an adult help you with this.
4. Arrange the popsicle sticks into a lodge shape and then glue them down.

Want to find out more?

Here is a selection of further resources to explore in the Naturalist Center, in the public library or at home. Please ask if you can't find what you're looking for.

Books

Animal Homes by Barbara Taylor. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL756 .T39 1996

Vivid photographs display the variety of animal abodes while the informative text explains how these amazing architects constructed them.

The Architecture of Animals by Adrian Forsyth. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL756 .F67 1989

Detailed information about the different types of structures animals make for a variety of purposes.

The Beaver's Lodge: Building with Leftovers by Adam Reingold

Everything you ever wanted to know about beavers in simple yet engaging text. Photographs, maps and illustrations complement the text.

Castores por Lynn M. Stone. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL737 .R632 S7618 1991.

An introduction to beavers, including how they build their lodges and dams, what they eat, what might want to eat them, and the threats they face from humans. In Spanish.

Tree Homes: Teacher's Guide by Jean C. Echols and Jaine Kopp with Ellen Blinderman and Kimi Hosoume. Nat. Ctr. QL756 .E34

A curriculum guide chock full of activities centered on trees and the animals that live in them. For preschool to first grade classes, but many of the activities could also be done at home.

What Do You Call a Termite Home? And Other Animal Homes by Emma Nathan. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL756 .N37 2000.

A guessing game book where readers are shown a photo of an animal and then have to guess what their home is called. Includes further information on how each one is made and what the animals do in their homes.

DVDs

Wild Kratts. Creature Adventures. Nat. Ctr. Media PN1992.77 .W55 2011

Join the Kratt brothers as they travel into the wild to learn about the wonders of nature. Includes an episode about beavers and another about aardvarks, which both talk about the important roles these animals play in their habitats, partly due to their constructions.

Websites

American Beaver

A section of the ARKive website, which includes facts, videos and photos about beavers.

<http://www.arkive.org/american-beaver/castor-canadensis/>

Animals A to Z: Nests

An eight minute video that introduces different types of nests made by birds, dormice, paper wasps and sticklebacks.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WELyDx3uBMM>

Things Animals Build

An online field guide to different homes made by common animals found in North America. Produced by the University of Michigan and Detroit Public Schools.

http://www.biokids.umich.edu/guides/tracks_and_sign/build/

