

Beavers

By Acadia Babin



Table of Contents

What is a Beaver	...3
Characteristics of Beavers	...4
Beavers are mammals	...5-7
Beavers Rely on Water	...8
Beavers build dams out of wood	...9-10
Beaver's lodges	...11
Beavers Can Cause Destruction	...12
Where Can You Find a Beaver?	...13
Glossary	...14
Works Referenced	...16-17
Common Core Standards	...18

What is a Beaver?

Beavers are considered to be the largest **rodent** in North America.

Someone who is searching for a beaver can find one in Europe or North America. Their names match where you might spot them. The beaver found in North America is named a North American Beaver and the beaver found in Europe is often referred to as a European Beaver.

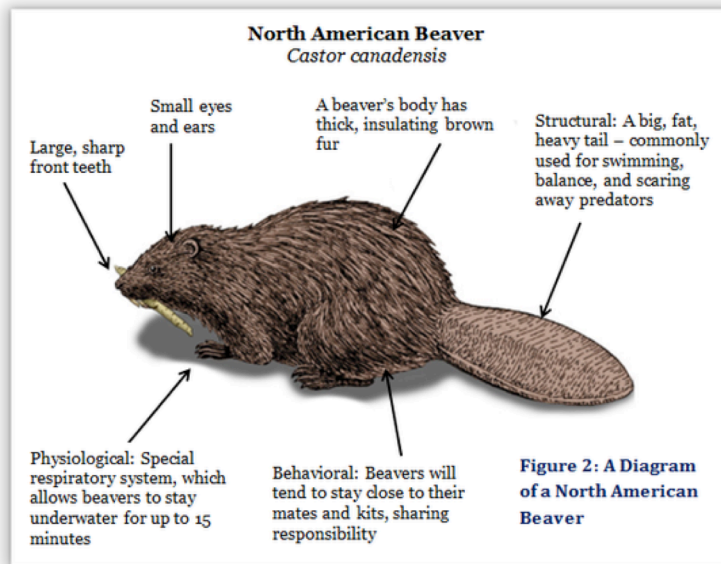
Have you seen a beaver? They are often spotted in ponds, rivers, streams, and other bodies of water.



Characteristics of Beavers

Beavers are mostly awake at night. This makes them **nocturnal**. A beaver's hair is waterproof, so beavers will not get sick from the different water temperatures.

A beavers' teeth never stop growing, but beavers eat and chew on wood so much that their teeth always stay the same size. Beavers use their tails for guiding their swimming and scaring away **predators**.



Beavers are Mammals

This means that they are warm blooded, they have babies like humans, and they have hair on their body.

Beaver Families

Beavers are **monogamous**, so they keep one **mate** their entire life. If one dies, the live beaver will find another mate.

Female beavers are only pregnant for 3 months. These baby beavers are called **kits**, and there are usually 1 to 4 kits per **litter**.



How Long Do Beavers Stay with Their Families?

These baby kits will stay with their family for about two years. After two years, the **maturing** beavers will make their own home a few **kilometers** away.

Once the beaver has reached the age of 3, he or she is ready to make their own family. Beavers are very protective of their homes and families. Each beaver can live 10-20 years.



When do beavers leave home?

Beavers Rely on Water

Beavers build their homes in water, and they use water to protect themselves from **predators**.

A beaver has a special respiratory system that lets him hold his breath for up to 15 minutes.



Beavers Build Dams out of Wood

Beavers use trees for eating and making dams. Dams are many pieces of wood that block the flow of water.



Beavers are unique because they are actually able to eat the bark of trees. This is convenient because beavers can have a meal while felling a tree that they use to create a dam or **lodge** to live in. Building in the middle of water helps protect the beavers and their kits from other animals.

This is a beaver's dam. Can you tell that one side of the water is higher than the other side?

This is because the dam blocks the flow of water, so the direction that the body of water is flowing from will be higher than the other side.

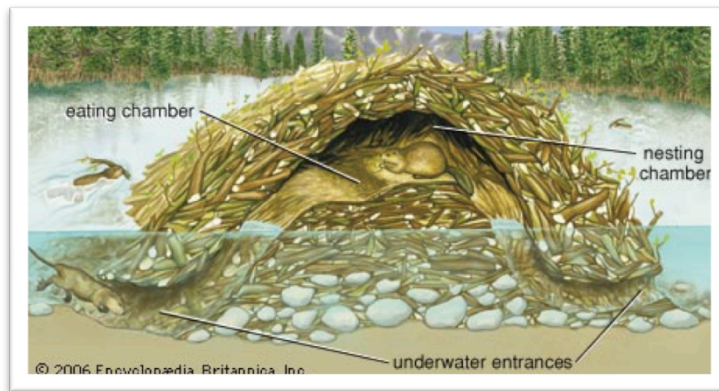


People have used beavers' techniques to create their own dams to give power to cities and states. Beavers are one of the most hard-working mammals.

Beavers Live in Lodges

Beavers live in lodges that are built out of trees. Their entrance is underneath the water. Around six beavers usually share one lodge. When the beaver first enters, he or she will enter a den, which is for drying off. Then there is a second den, which is where the beavers spend most of their time. Because of the way beavers' lodges are built, they can easily withstand cold temperatures.

Beavers often share their homes with other creatures such as muskrats. The extra helpers gather food and keep the lodge warm.



Beavers Can Cause Destruction

Sometimes beavers cause **deforestation**. Deforestation happens when beavers strip all of the trees in an area of their wood.



Beavers can also cause flooding because when they build their dams the water gets too high. They can also cause droughts when the water gets too low, which prevents water from getting to another area.

Most of the time however, beavers prevent this from happening. Beavers can prevent flooding or droughts.

Where can you find a beaver?

In a desert?	No
In a swamp?	Yes
In Antarctica?	No
In a river?	Yes
In the Tropics?	No
In a pond?	Yes
Far from Water?	No
In a stream?	Yes
In Africa?	No
In North America?	Yes

Glossary

Deforestation: This is a forest with little to no trees.

Den: A part of a beaver's home.

Destruction: If something causes so much damage that there is no repair.

Kits: Baby beavers.

Kilometers: A form of measurement, 5 kilometers is equal to about 3 miles.

Litter: A group of **kits** born at once.

Lodges: A beaver's home.

Mate: A beaver's "wife" or "husband".

Maturing: To get older.

Monogamous: To stay with one mate.

Nocturnal: To be awake mostly at night.

Predators: Animals that hunt prey, or in this case, beavers.

Rodent: Usually small mammals that include rats and hamsters as well.

Works Referenced

"Beaver." *Amazing Facts about Beavers* | *OneKind*. Web. 20 Apr. 2016.

<http://www.onekind.org/education/animals_a_z/beaver/>

Holden, Josh. "Castor Fiber (Eurasian Beaver)." *Animal Diversity Web*. Web. 20 Apr. 2016.

http://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Castor_fiber/.

Media Attributions

1. Photo credit: “hazel-beaver 1-7-15” by Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium available under a Creative Commons Attribution License 2.0 <http://www.pdza.org/beaver/>
2. Photo Credit: “One of the famous Martinez Beavers”, photographed by Cheryl Reynolds available under a Creative Commons Attribution License 2.0 <http://www.creekcats.com/birdblog/?p=237>
3. Photo Credit: “Beaver- North American” <http://mnzoo.org/blog/animals/north-american-beaver/>
4. Photo Credit: Photographed by *Photo* © Adam Welz www.adamwelz.net <http://lakeconesteenaturepark.com/2-7/> available under a Creative Commons Attribution License 2.0
5. Photo Credit: <https://pannach-s1-beaver.wikispaces.com/> available under public domain
6. Photo Credit: <http://mnzoo.org/blog/animals/north-american-beaver/#prettyPhoto> available under public domain.
7. Photo Credit: “Leave it to Beavers: Beaver Photos” <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/leave-it-to-beavers-beaver-photos-beavers-at-work/8858/#/section-0/9> by pbs available under a Creative Commons Attribution 2.0
8. Photo Credit: “This Week’s Best Science Images” by Live Science Staff <http://www.livescience.com/11312-week-science-images.html> available under Creative Commons Attribution License 2.0
9. Photo Credit: “Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc.” <http://www.britannica.com/animal/beaver> available under public domain.
10. Photo Credit: <http://hbt-lako.blogspot.com/2013/10/a-hod-epitesz-vagy-kartevo.html> available under public domain.

Common Core State Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.1 Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.2

Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.7

Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).

This e-book and any prints are released under a [CC BY 3.0 license](#) by the author.

This means that you are free to share, remix, transform, and build upon this book as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author.

Included works (e.g., images and other media) may have separate licensing requirements, and this release does not supersede or replace those requirements.

This e-book template is provided under a CC BY 3.0 license by the University of Idaho College of Education. If you use, share, remix, or transform this template, you should include this page at the end of your book.

University of Idaho
College of Education