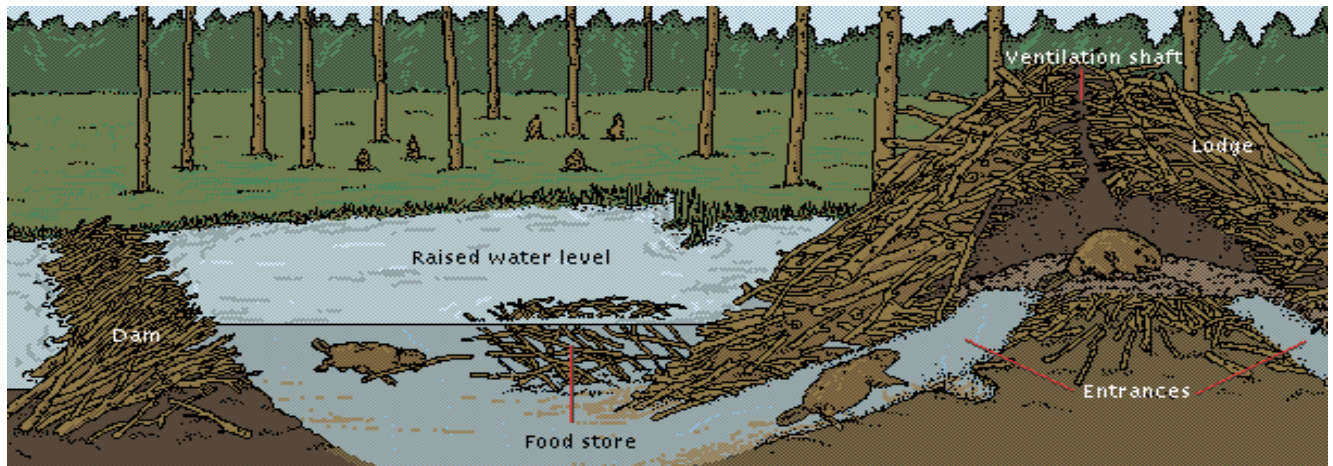


Let's Build a Beaver Dam!



One of the beaver's most amazing superpowers is its ability to transform its environment to suit its needs. Besides humans, beavers are the only species on earth that know how to construct a dam to hold back water.

Task: Use the following materials to build a beaver dam:

- Seed tray, cake pan, cardboard box or a long Tupperware-type container.
- Sticks of different sizes, sand, rocks, moss and clay or mud.
- (Option 1) Create a complete habitat model by adding animals and plants that may live in the pond and stream. Use other materials like clay, animal figurines or make them out of paper or cardboard.
- (Option 2) Test your dam engineering abilities with water!

Step 1: Use sand, dirt and rocks to create a river or stream ecosystem within your seed tray, cake pan, box or long container.

Step 2: Chose a spot along the river or stream you made to build a beaver dam out of sticks, small rocks, moss and either mud or clay.

Step 3: (Option 1) Add in extra plants and animals to make a complete model of a beaver habitat.

- What types of animals might prefer a pond habitat over a stream?
- How does the landscape change from a river or stream when an area is dammed up and becomes a pond?

Step 3: (Option 2) Use a small glass of water or a pitcher to slowly add water to your stream to test your beaver dam.

- Did your design work?
- If it didn't, what would you do differently?
- How is a beaver dam different from a dam that was built by humans? Would a human dam have the same impact on the ecosystem or is it different?