

# BUILD A BEAVER LODGE

## *Wildlife Champions at Home Science Experiment*

*NGSS: K-ESS2-2 Construct an argument supported by evidence for how plants and animals (including humans) can change the environment to meet their needs.*

### **What is a beaver lodge?**

Beavers live in wetland habitats along lakes and rivers and are some of the best architects in the wild. An architect is someone who designs and builds things, and beavers are experts at designing and building their homes. A beaver home is called a lodge.

To build a lodge, a beaver must first carefully select a location. Usually, beavers choose a place that is close to their food source. Beavers eat leaves, bark and twigs of various trees. Beavers may build their homes close to shore, or they may construct their lodge further out in the water. The most important factor is for their home to hover over an area that is at least 5 to 6 feet deep. If a spot is not deep enough, a beaver will create a dam across the water, blocking the flow and making the water deeper. The dam isn't where the beavers live. Their home, the lodge, is a separate structure.

Home construction begins! Beavers use their teeth to cut down trees and branches around the area and drag them to their building location. They chew on the wood to break it into smaller pieces and start making piles. Then they use their hands to squish mud between the logs. Lastly, they smack the logs and mud with their tail to make sure everything is sturdy.



Beavers design their home with the following features: two entrances so they can escape from predators, a food pile, a food ledge where they can store their food over colder months, and lastly, an air vent to help keep it cool over the hot summer days.

## Directions

Can you create a beaver lodge? When designing your lodge, don't forget to have two entrances, a food ledge with a food pile, an air vent and, of course, your beaver family.

**Materials:** Two sheets of paper, crayons or coloring tools, glue sticks, scissors and, if available, brown-colored paper



Step 1. Design: Take a white piece of paper and draw a hill; this will be the base of your beaver lodge made with mud. Color in with different shades of brown and black.



Step 2. Draw the top of your beaver lodge, leaving room for a tunnel for your beaver to crawl through. Color the area above the top blue; this is the water around your beaver lodge.

Step 3. Get your second piece of paper and color half of it brown. This will be the logs you use to build your lodge. (Note: If you already have brown paper, you can skip this step.)



Step 4. Cut your brown paper into long strips. Then cut those strips into smaller "branches" (no smaller than your thumbnail, or it will be hard to glue).

Step 5. Glue your branches to your lodge.

Step 6. Draw your beaver in its lodge. Do your best, and don't forget a long flat tail.

Step 7. Label your beaver lodge: Underwater Entrance, Food Pile, Food Ledge, Air Vent, and Water. Show a family member or friend. Explain how beavers make lodges!

## Reflection

Can you think of any other animal that builds its own home?

Adapted from: <http://teachermomplus3.blogspot.com/2016/08/beavers-lodge-craft.html>