

Lesson Plan

Make a Manual

Book: American Beavers

Series: Animals of North America

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students practice using words and phrases about time, sequence, and cause and effect; to explain the steps in a process; and to help students explore how animals cause changes to their environments.

Supplies

- *American Beavers*
- Paper and pencils

Before the Activity

Read through the *American Beavers* book, or assign it to the students to read on their own.

Activity

Ask the students to pretend they are writing an instruction manual for beavers. Using the information from the *American Beavers* book (especially Chapter 3), have the students write instructions that explain how to build a dam and lodge. First, the students should make a list of the supplies (such as logs and mud) that the beavers will need to build the dam and lodge.

Next, the students should describe the process of building the dam and lodge. They should split the building process into short steps. Each step should start with a number. The students should organize the steps in an order that is easy to follow. They should also make sure to use words or phrases about time, sequence, and cause and effect (such as *next*, *before*, or *after that*) in their instructions.

Evaluation

Did the students include a supply list? Did they number each step? Did they organize the steps in a way that was easy to follow? Did they use words or phrases about time, sequence, and cause and effect?

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading informational texts standards, grade 3 (RI 3.3) and writing standards, grade 3 (3.4) as well as the National Science Education Standards' Content Standard C, grades K–4.