



Fact File: Beaver

Have you ever thought about where a beaver sleeps?

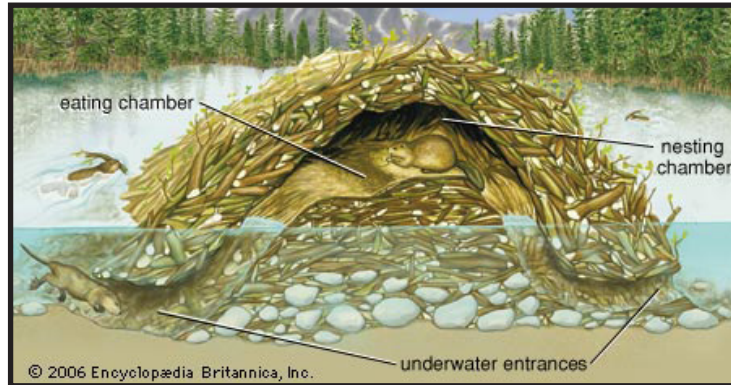
Beavers live by lakes, rivers and streams and they build amazing homes for themselves called lodges.

Up to 9 beavers can live in one lodge, so they need to be big. Some can be as big as 15 m wide!

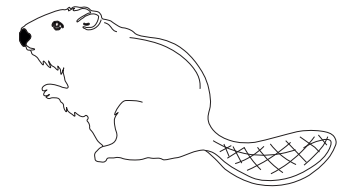
They start by piling up logs and sticks around an underwater door.

They need the water to be at least 0.6m deep so they can dive down in to the entrance. Once they have built the walls they use mud as insulation to help keep the lodge warm and dry inside. They also add wood shavings to cover the floor and keep their home clean and tidy.

Beavers use their teeth to cut down branches and drag them underwater with their powerful jaws, they scoop up the mud they need with their front feet.



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Afterthoughts

How easy was it to build the lodge? Beaver's not only build the lodge but they do have to chop down the wood using just their teeth and they have to start building whilst underwater!

Can you imagine doing this with just your feet and jaws whilst holding your breath?!

Beaver Challenge

Try to build your own mini beaver lodge.

Can you create an entrance and a room inside?
What could you line the floor with?

What you will need to find:

- A supply of twigs, sticks and branches
- Natural materials such as moss

Mud! (If you prefer you can use compost mixed with some water)

