

Nature Adventures

with NC's 4-H Camps

A virtual learning program for educators and families

Beaver Pond Explorations Discussion & Learning Guide

Directions: Follow along and look for answers to the questions below as you participate in the program. If you have others you are working with, answer the questions together.

- 1) What types of food(s) do beavers eat? **Beavers specifically eat the live tissue of trees, called Phloem, and other woody plants. They are herbivores, meaning they only eat plant matter.**
- 2) What type of mammal are beavers? **Beavers are the second largest RODENT in the world and the largest rodent in the U.S.**
- 3) What is an adaptation and what are a few of the adaptations we see in beavers? **An adaptation is a change or the process of change by which a species becomes better suited to its environment. The beavers' large teeth, large flat tail, waterproofing, and insulation are all great examples of adaptations.**
- 4) List at least one common misconception about beavers. **Common misconceptions about beavers include that they eat fish, they pat mud on dams with their tails, and that they live in lodges at the bottom of a pond or lake. This last one is partially true, but some species of beaver build their lodges in the sides of a lake or pond, not always at the bottom.**
- 5) What is Castor Oil? **Castor Oil is the oil beavers secrete from glands in their paws. They spread the oil on themselves to help waterproof their bodies.**
- 6) What is Phloem and what does it help a tree do? **Phloem is the living tissue just under the bark of a living tree. It is a thin layer responsible for transporting nutrients produced by photosynthesis in the leaves down to the roots of the tree for storage.**
- 7) How do beavers assist other living creatures in the environment? **Because beavers alter their surrounding habitat, they also create habitat for other animals like macroinvertebrates (insects).**