



Optional Extensions: Make beaver goggles using egg cartons cut in sections, each section having two partitions. Cut the bottom out of each partition and cover it with plastic wrap to represent the beaver's second eyelid. Secure the goggles on the students' heads with elastic thread or yarn.

Create a beaver by filling a brown lunch sack with a wadded-up newspaper and stapling the opening closed. The students can draw a paddle-shaped tail on another piece of paper, draw scales on it, cut it out, and tape it to one side of the flat end of the bag. On the same piece of paper, have students draw and color small ears, eyes, and two large "buck teeth" and cut them out. Glue the ears, eyes, and teeth to create a beaver's face toward the stapled end of the bag (at the opposite end from the tail!).



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Build A Beaver Lodge

Trunk B activity

Materials

- Busy Beavers, Lydia Dabovich
- Large drawing of a beaver lodge
- One shoe box per child (or small group) - the lid is not needed
- Tiny twigs collected on the school grounds or in the neighborhood
- Glue
- Tape
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Thread
- Blue plastic wrap or cellophane

Read *Busy Beavers*, by Lydia Dabovich, a book with very simple, easy-to-read text, which explores beavers' activities. The book refers to a beaver lodge as a beaver home. Introduce or review the word "lodge." Display the large picture of the beaver lodge. Talk about the lodge with the students noting that the lodge extends both above and below the water.

Build a beaver pond diorama that will be a cross-section of a beaver lodge and its surrounding pond. With the shoe box set on one side, its upper side will represent the pond's surface. The space inside the box will be the pond's underwater environment. Begin by constructing the underwater portion of the beaver lodge by stacking and gluing twigs inside the box from the pond's bottom (the box's lower side) to the pond's surface (the box's upper side). Let the glue dry. Then make the upper portion of the lodge by gluing twigs in a mound on the "pond's surface" (the box's upper side) just above the "underwater" portion of the lodge. It will work best to do this project over two or more

days to allow the glue to dry between stages in the lodge's construction.

Have students color pictures of one or more tiny beavers, cut them out, and glue them on or near the lodge. "Swimming" beavers may be dangled on threads taped on the underside of the "pond's" surface. Fish may be added to the diorama in the same manner. Have students wrap blue plastic wrap or cellophane over the box's opening to make their view of the underwater scene more realistic. Label the dioramas with titles and students' names. Display the dioramas in the classroom.

Note: This activity is most successful if young students work with older student "buddies" or with an adult helper.

Optional Extension: Have students divide into small groups. Have each group work on a section of a class mural which will illustrate a variety of beaver activities, including cutting sticks and trees, dam and lodge building, and the birth of beaver kits.