



BEAVER ECOLOGY



Day _____ morning or afternoon Room _____

In this class you will learn how adaptations help the beaver survive in its watery environment, discover evidence of beaver families living along Sawmill Creek, find out how beavers affect the plants and animals that share their environment, and learn about the role of beavers in the history of North American and European cultures.

After class, use your imagination and what you have learned to complete this journal page.

1. What is one of the adaptations of the beaver?
2. How does that adaptation help it survive?
3. Create an additional adaptation for the beaver. Describe it in words or draw it, and explain how the new adaptation helps the beaver survive in its environment.
4. You have just traveled back in time, and changed history: instead of beaver felt hats, the fashion was pink and orange striped knit wool caps! What might have happened differently if the fur trade had not been such a big part of history? Describe how things might have been different for:

beavers

Native Americans

Europeans

(more questions on back side)

5. A beaver family has just moved into this pond. Draw what this scene might look like a year from now. Include any beaver signs that you saw on your hike to Sawmill Creek (possibilities are: lodge, dam, food cache, drag trails, canals, eat marks or other signs of beavers feeding or harvesting trees, scent mounds, tracks, live beavers . . .)

6. Beavers have just built a dam on a creek running through your yard. The water is now flooding your garage, and might soon flood the basement.

What are several ways you could try to solve this problem?

Which option do you think you might pick if this really happened? Why?