

Beaver Habitat



In this section you will find a teacher's introduction to beaver habitat and activity sheets to help your students. There are two different levels of worksheet aimed at younger or older students depending on their abilities.

Beaver Habitat Teacher Introduction

Beaver Habitat Worksheet—Younger

Beaver Habitat Worksheet—Older

Beaver Habitat



Beavers affect the survival of other wildlife by changing habitats and creating new ones. By damming rivers beavers create ponds and wetlands that attract lots of other wildlife such as frogs, otters, fish and invertebrates. This makes them a very important part of any ecosystem a role which is called a 'keystone species'.

Beavers need certain things in order to live, just like all other living things, these can be as simple as food and shelter which are the most important needs for survival. This was something that had to be taken into account when it was being decided where the beavers would go in Scotland and also how they could be kept before they were released.

The Trial beavers are from the Telemark region of Norway so finding a similar area was an important part of the decision making process.

Suggested session:

- The Scottish Beaver Trial introduction presentation and film can be shown to the students to give them an understanding of the project, where it is and what a beaver is.
- The students can work alone or in groups and are given the Beaver Habitat work sheets. They have to design a suitable habitat for the beaver.
- The students can have time to research the subject, using the Internet or other resources.
- Go through the answers explaining in more detail, if needed, what the beaver needs.

Additional activities:

- Students can add other species which would move into the area along with beavers, this shows how the beavers can change and improve areas. This links to the 'keystone species' activities.
- Students can advertise their habitat in the form of a house for sale advert for beavers, or other species.
- This can lead into discussions on food chains and webs.
- This can link to the 'Trial Science' activity looking at suitable places for the reintroduction.

Resources:

- Beaver habitat worksheet
- Pens/pencils/drawing equipment
- Introduction presentation and film
- Access to research material (internet/books)

Beaver Habitat



Before the beavers could go out into the wild we had to find somewhere that was right for them to live.

Using what you know about beavers and how they affect other animals, design a habitat for them.

Draw the habitat below and label all the things you have put in it.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a beaver habitat. A blue vertical line is positioned to the left of the box, and a blue horizontal line is positioned below the box, meeting at the bottom-left corner.

Remember to include everything a beaver would need to survive like food and shelter.

Beaver Habitat



Using your knowledge of beavers design an ecosystem in the box below. Remember to include everything a beaver would need to survive.

Label all items within the habitat and be specific with species.
Explain your decisions in short annotations.