



# Home Sweet Home

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# Chapter One

## Home Sweet Home



What would we do if we didn't have homes? People and animals need homes. Both groups need homes for many reasons. Homes are places to raise our families. We get rest in our homes. Homes provide places for us to store our food. Homes keep us safe and help us stay healthy.





Homes provide shelter from all kinds of weather.  
When it's cold outside, our homes keep us warm.  
When the weather is hot, our homes keep us  
cool.





When it's snowy or rainy, our homes keep us dry.





The homes people live in are not the same as animals' homes.







People's homes have certain things in common.  
They have walls, doors, windows, and a roof.



But animals live in other kinds of homes.

Bats live in caves.

Hermit crabs live in shells. Farm animals, such as pigs, live in pens. Horses live in stables. Chickens live in coops.







Insects, such as ants and termites, live in nests. Honey bees live in beehives. Wild bears, lions, and wolves live in dens.

Reptiles, such as snakes, live in nests. Rabbits and moles live in **burrows**.





The beaver is one of the largest **rodents** in North America. It lives in **lodges** in rivers, streams, lakes, marshes, and ponds.



# Chapter Two

## All About Beavers



Beavers are very smart animals. They can change their **environment**, or surroundings. They often make **clearings** in forests. That's because they cut down lots of tall trees there.

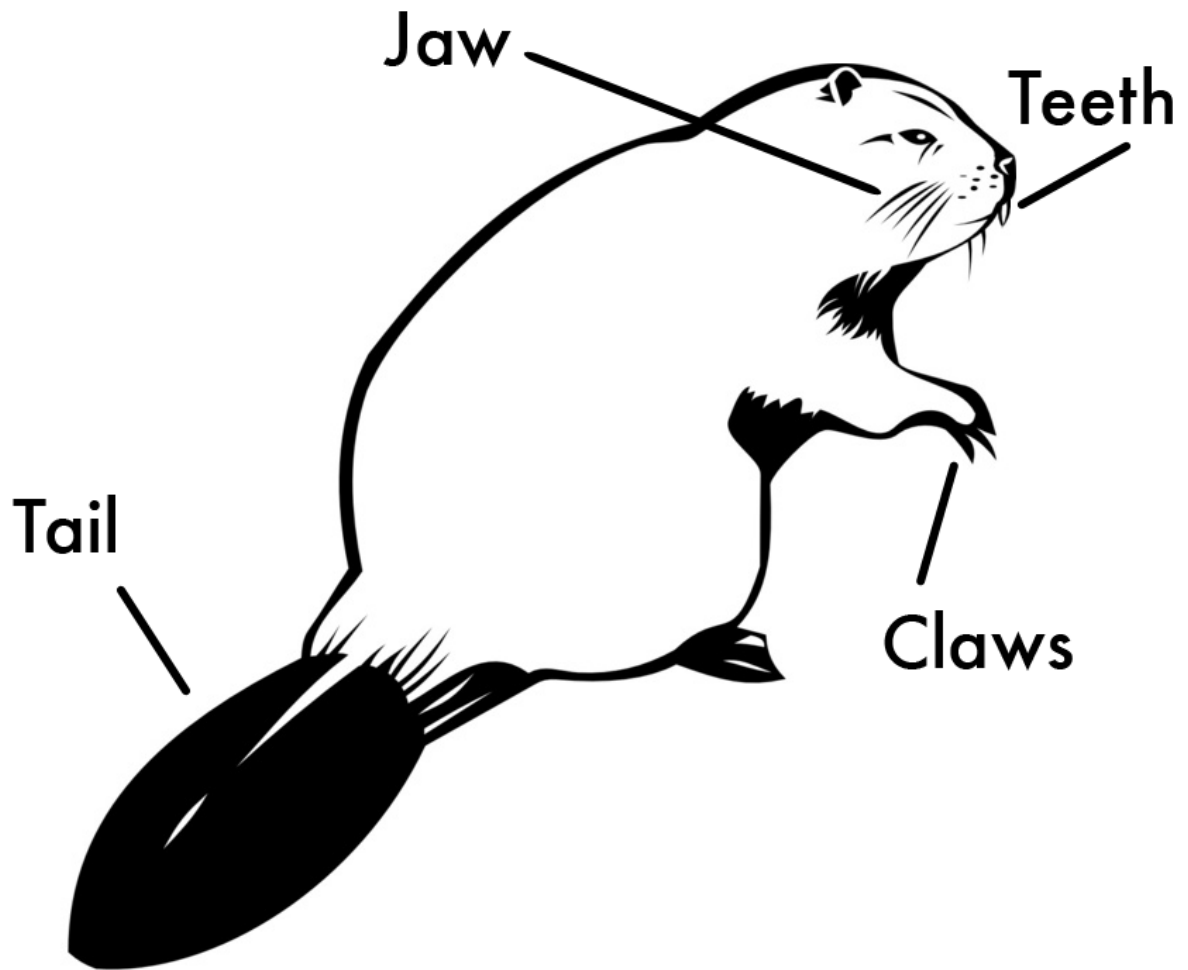


Beavers also build **dams** with logs and branches in rivers and streams. Sometimes the dams cause the streams or rivers to flood.





Then, the land around the water becomes **wetlands**. Animals, such as turtles, frogs, and birds, need wetlands to live.



How are beavers able to do these things? They have body parts that help them.





Beavers have very sharp, strong teeth that work like a **chisel**. And they have strong jaws, too. These help them cut down big trees. Their front feet have sharp claws. They use these to roll logs, carry sticks and branches, and dig.



Beavers' large rear feet do not have claws. They are webbed feet. These help them swim very fast in the water. Beavers have a flat, scaly tail. It is shaped like a paddle. The tail helps them steer when they swim.





Beavers can swim up to five miles an hour! They can stay under water for about 15 minutes without coming up for air. Their eyelids have a thin layer of skin. They can see through this skin under water. It's almost like they're wearing goggles.



Although they are fast in water, beavers move slowly on land. They are big rodents, but their legs are very short.





Beavers can be up to four and a half feet long.  
They can weigh up to 60 pounds.





Beavers do not eat meat. They eat tree bark, leaves, twigs, grass, and berries. They also eat plants that grow by their homes in the water. They can live up to 24 years in the wild.

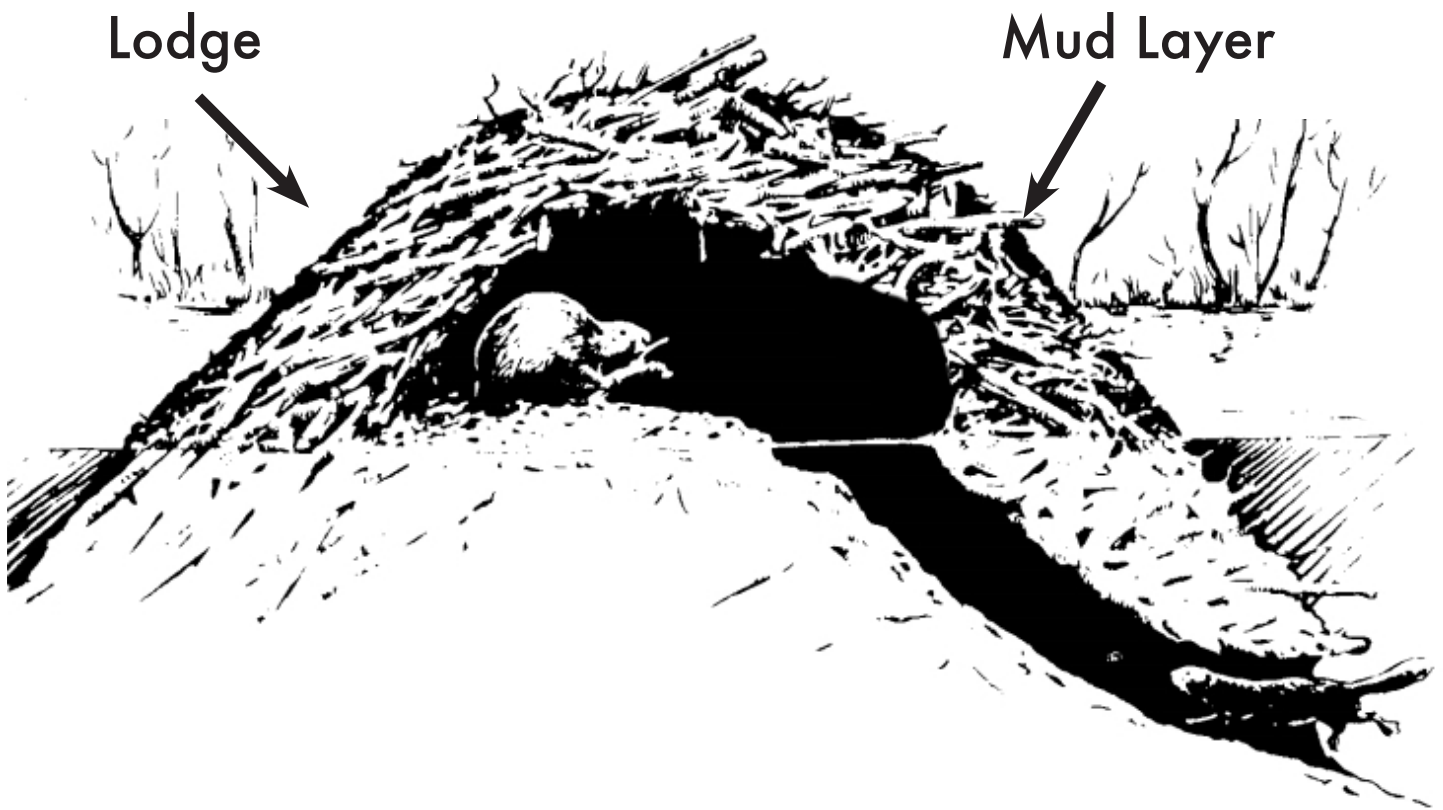


# Chapter Three

## Beavers' Homes



There's one spot beavers most often pick to build their lodges. It is in the middle of the water, behind a dam. Beavers form the lodges using lots of tree branches.



They dig up mud and spread it over the branches. They do this to keep the lodge warm inside.





The beavers form the lodge in the shape of a dome. They make the doorway to the lodge *under* the water. This way they can stay safe from eagles, wolves, and bears.

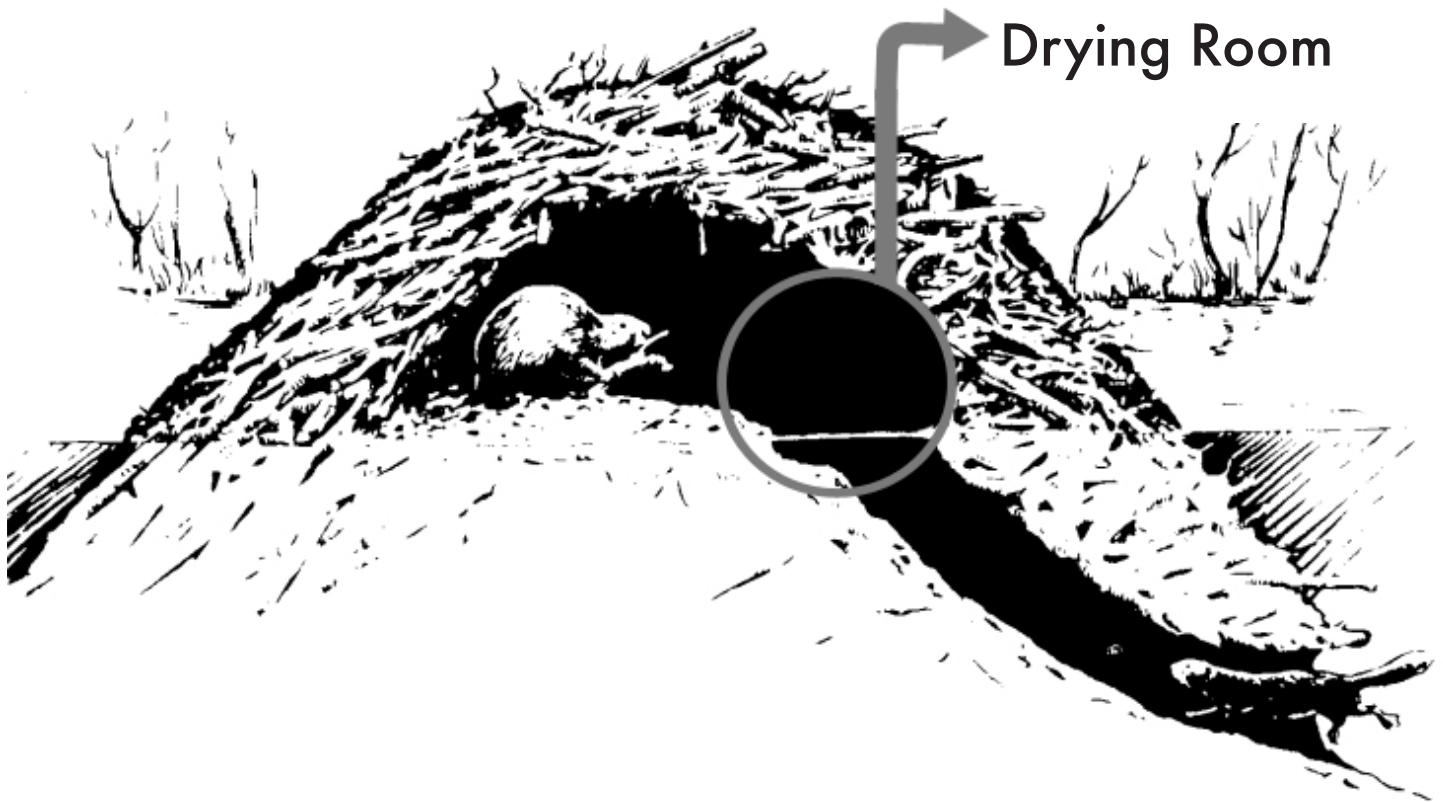


The lodge can be home to a few groups of beavers. There may be adults and young **kits**. Inside there is more than one room, or den. But the main room is mostly where they all stay. This room is often about 8 feet wide and 3 feet high.





All the beavers stay here to keep warm. Their heavy fur acts almost like a blanket. It keeps their bodies warm. The heat from their bodies keeps the main room cozy.



The first room is where they dry off.

Beavers have to leave the lodge from time to time. They go to look for food.





When they return, all wet, they go to the drying room. Later, they join the others in the main room.



Not all beavers live in lodges, though. Some just like to dig tunnels to live in by the water.



# Chapter Four

## Homes for People



Now we've learned all about the homes beavers make. Let's visit some homes that people live in.

People live in all parts of the world. They make homes that suit their budgets. They make homes for the climate they live in. And they make homes for their way of life.



Look at all these homes! Which one do you like best? Why do you think each of these homes suits the person who lives in it?







Homes come in all shapes and sizes. But all homes provide shelter.

Homes provide a place to eat and a place to rest.

Home sweet home!



# Glossary



**burrow:** a hole or tunnel dug by certain animals to use as a home

**chisel:** a metal tool with a sharp edge, used for cutting stone, wood, or metal

**clearing:** an open piece of land that has no trees or bushes

**dam:** a construction across a waterway that controls the level of water in it



**environment:** everything that surrounds living things and affects their health and growth

**kit:** a young, furry animal, such as a fox or a beaver

**lodge:** shelter for a wild animal

**rodent:** a small mammal that has long sharp teeth used for gnawing

**wetlands:** land that has lots of water in its soil

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