



Dear Educator,

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The “**Animal Homes**” unit offers **17** pages.

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A N I M A L  
H O M E S





Beavers are excellent carpenters. All the members of the beaver family help to build their home. The beaver family shares the home.

Beavers first find a still and deep pool. Sometimes it is very difficult to find a pool so they must build their home in a river. First they build a dam by using branches and mud.



Beavers need a lot of wood. They have very sharp front teeth. They can cut down a very large tree and drag the branches and sticks to the river. They fill the gaps with stones and mud so the water can not flow through.

Beavers are excellent carpenters.

They make a pile of branches very high so it stands above the water. They chew and gnaw tunnels into it. They make a very large room at the end of the tunnel. They live in this large room. The room is above the water so it is dry. They leave an opening in the top for air.

The beaver home is called a lodge. When the water freezes in the winter the beavers cannot find food. They eat food they have stored in the lodge. The biggest beaver dam is in the United States on the Jefferson River. It is about 2,300 feet long (700 meters).





Many animals make big underground towns. The biggest towns are made by prairie dogs of North America. Prairie dogs make burrows undergrounds.

A group of prairie dogs is called a colony. Each group has a certain number of families. The prairie dogs build a shaft at the entrance on the surface of the ground.



At the end of each tunnel the prairie dog has a room called the sleeping chamber. Many other families build burrows with connection tunnels close to each other. It makes a huge underground town. The entrance to the burrows have mounds of earth piled up. They use these mounds as look out posts. The mounds also protect the entrances from rain and flooding.

The oldest male of the family stands at the entrance watching for enemies. If he sees danger he yelps and warns other family members.



A prairie dog is a mammal. It barks like a dog.

Write your answer in a complete sentence.

How does a prairie dog warn family members of danger?

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What is a group of prairie dogs called?

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Can you fit these words into the criss cross?  
Use a pencil so you can erase if you need to.

gorilla  
nest

squirrels  
burrows

badger  
caves

hibernate  
animal

