

BEAVER ENGINEERING CHALLENGE:



Beavers are amazing **ecosystem engineers**. They use materials in their ecosystems to create their own marsh habitats and shelter!

Can you make your own mini beaver dam or lodge?

First take a moment to think about what the beavers used to build their dam and lodge in the Nature Lab video.

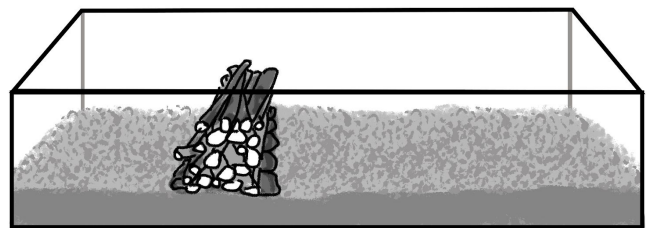
Now, gather your materials:

You can use natural or human-made materials in your engineering design. We find that stones, sticks, clay, popsicle sticks, and blocks make excellent building materials. **Use your imagination to use anything you can find at home!**

We recommend building in a long container like a tupperware to keep your engineering contained. **Just make sure you have permission and a good space to create!**

Option 1 - Create a Beaver Dam!

1. Beavers build dams to block the flow of water to create and expand marshes.
2. Can you design a dam to hold water?
3. Check out the supporting video to see how Shyia made her own dam in a box and for more ideas for your own design!



Option 2 - Create a Beaver Lodge!

1. Beavers build lodges to create a safe place, or shelter, from the weather and predators.
2. Can you make a mini lodge to shelter a LEGO sized beaver?
3. Add a bonus challenge and see if your design stays standing if you put it in front of a fan or pour water on it.

Keep Engineering, Keep Thinking:

- How did your design work? Did it hold water? Did it stay standing?
- Is there anything you could add to your dam or lodge to make it better?