

KIDS' *Beaver*

K O R N E R

A beaver is a large, dark brown rodent, often weighing as much as 50 lbs. Its black, paddle shaped tail, covered with scales, is used as a rudder when swimming and as a support for the body when standing. The tail is often slapped on the water as a method of warning to other beavers. The beaver is most recognized by its oversized, orange front teeth used for cutting and gnawing trees, tree bark and

other plant material. Webbed hind feet are used for swimming and balance when walking in the mud, while smaller front feet are used more like hands to aid in walking, building and grooming. Beavers usually live in and along rivers, streams, marshes and small lakes where they use their engineering of sticks and mud.

Beaver facts

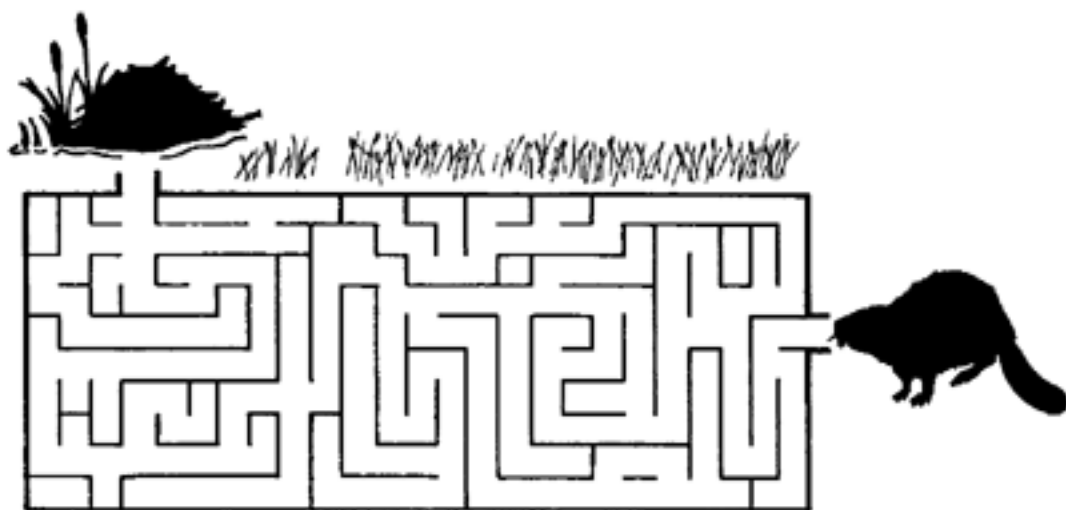
Beavers' chisel-shaped incisors (front teeth) never stop growing.

Beavers' furred lips close behind front teeth, allowing the beaver to chew under water without holding its breath.

Beavers swim approximately two miles per hour.

Beavers may stay under water for more than 15 minutes at a time.

Help this *beaver* find his lodge



KIDS' KORNER
Courtesy of the
Mississippi Museum of
Natural Science
111 North Jefferson Street
Jackson, MS 39202