

Busy Beaver

Objective

Given a writing sample, the student will practice editing for conventions, focusing on one element at a time.

Standards

- Standard 1E: Uses strategies to edit written work (e.g., edits for grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling at a developmentally appropriate level; considers page format [paragraphs, indentations, titles])
- Standard 1F: Evaluates others' writing
- Standard 3: Uses grammatical and mechanical conventions in written composition

Materials

- beaver pattern on classroom display
- “Common Proofreading Marks” (page 73)
- “Busy Beaver’s Homework” (page 74), one copy per student
- colored pencils

Preparation

Reproduce one copy of page 74 onto an overhead and reproduce one paper copy for each student. Reproduce page 73 onto an overhead.

Lesson Opening

Draw the students’ attention to the beaver display created in the previous lesson. Ask if a beaver uses all of his tools at once, or one at a time. Explain to the students that they will practice using the conventions one at a time by editing “Busy Beaver’s Homework.”

Lesson Directions

1. Review the conventions poster.
2. Teach the proofreader’s marks (page 73). Display the overhead and write in the appropriate symbol as you discuss each one. Explain that these will be the students’ editing “tools.”
3. Display additional sample paragraphs(s) (“Editing Practice,” page 69) on the overhead one at a time. Model and discuss how to edit using the proofreading marks.
4. Distribute page 74 and display the overhead. Ask students to use a colored pencil to edit the sample. Have them circle misspelled words and write the correct version above it. Discuss the difference between spelling errors and grammatical errors (for example, a word that is spelled correctly but used incorrectly in a sentence would be considered a grammatical error).
5. Next, have students edit for punctuation, using a different color pencil than the one used in step 4. Remind them to use the “Common Proofreading Marks” format.
6. Continue with grammar, capitalization, and marking paragraphs. Conclude by creating a title.

Lesson Closing

Ask the class how it felt to practice using the tools one at a time. To review the tools, point to the beaver parts one at a time and ask students to name a convention to look for in editing.

Common Proofreading Marks

Editor's Mark	Meaning	Example
≡	capitalize	they fished in lake tahoe <u>≡</u> <u>≡</u> <u>≡</u>
/	make it lower case	Five S tudents missed the B us.
sp.	spelling mistake	The day was ^{sp.} cloudy and cold.
○	add a period	Tomorrow is a holiday○
↵	delete (remove)	One person knew the the answer.
^	add a word	^{pups} Six [^] were in the litter.
^,	add a comma	He planted peas, [,] corn, and squash.
~	reverse words or letters	An otter swam in the bed help
∨	add an apostrophe	The child's [∨] bike was red.
“ ”	add quotation marks	Why can't I go? [∨] she cried.
#	make a space	He ate two red [#] apples.
)	close the space	Her favorite game is soft ⁾ ball.
¶	begin a new paragraph	to know. [¶] Next on the list

Busy Beaver's Homework

I works hard during spring break. my family built a new lodge.

First, we built a dam to mak the pond deeper then dad chewed down some trees with his strong sharp teeth. I used my front paws to carry large branches to the water.

We always worked together so that one of us culd watch for danger

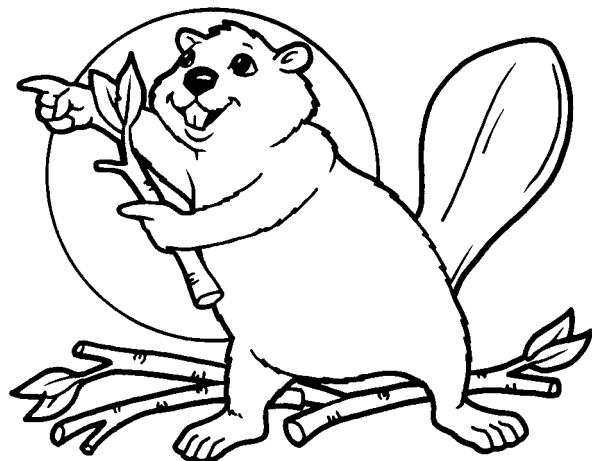
If an enemy came close, I would slapped my tail on the water to warn the others. Mabe the animal would get frightened and go

away. Did you know that beavers

are great engineers I had a grat

time helping my family build

during spring break.



Editing Practice

Paragraph #1 (13 corrections)

Bevers have tails that they use to swim. There teeth is the most importim part of them Femals have the babes.

Bevers bild dens to sleap in. There fat cep them warm. they have paws to protect them.

—Sara Greer (*used with author's permission*)



Paragraph #2 (10 corrections)

A beavers tail is flat Beavers can grow another eye layer. Beavers nose is inportin. a beavers teeth is very sharp. Beavers build lodhes. Beavers have a layer of fat to keep them warm.

—Trey Udy (*used with author's permission*)



Paragraph #3 (13 corrections)

Beavers are like mechanics. they have everything They need to bild a dam's. I thingk beavers hold ther breth for a long time. beavers have tools. And good wons to.

—Taylor Briscoeray (*used with author's permission*)