



IMPORTANCE OF BEAVERS

NORTH AMERICAN BEAVERS

North American beavers (*Castor canadensis*) are large semiaquatic rodents native to North America. They are herbivorous mammals. They are best known for building dams.



NATURE'S CONSTRUCTION WORKER

Beavers build dams with tree logs, sticks, mud, and rocks. When they build these dams, small ponds are created on the other side. These ponds provide important habitat for birds, fish, and amphibians. These ponds also help control soil erosion and reduce flooding. Dams also slow down the water, thus increasing sedimentation.



FUN FACTS:

- April 7 is International Beaver Day
- Beavers have orange-colored teeth from an iron-rich protective coating of enamel.
- Their teeth grow continuously throughout their life because otherwise they would be worn down from gnawing on trees.
- A baby beaver is called a kit. Kits are born in a lodge constructed of sticks within the pond

