

**Spectacular
Animal Towns**

The Beaver's Lodge

Building with Leftovers



by Adam Reingold

[Intentionally Left Blank]



The Beaver's Lodge

Building with Leftovers



by Adam Reingold

Consultant: John Hadidian, Ph.D.
Director, Urban Wildlife Programs
The Humane Society of the United States

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

Credits

Cover and Title Page, © Azure Computer & Photo Services/Animals Animals Enterprises; 4–5, © Parks Canada/Wood Buffalo National Park/Steve_Anderson; 5, © Jack Milchanowski/age fotostock/SuperStock; 6L, © Tom Walker/Imagestate/Photolibrary; 6R, © Roel Hoeve/Foto Natura/Minden Pictures; 7T, © Kurt Madersbacher/Mauritius/Superstock; 7B, © Gerry Ellis/Minden Pictures; 10, © Jen & Des Bartlett/BCIUSA/Photoshot; 11, © Westend61/SuperStock; 12, © Alan & Sandy Carey/OSF/Animals Animals Enterprises; 13T, © C.C. Lockwood/Animals Animals Enterprises; 13B, © Bernd Zoller/imagebroker/Photolibrary; 14, © Yva Momatiuk & John Eastcott/Minden Pictures; 15, © Lennie & Uschi Rue III/Rue Wildlife Photos; 16, © Kurt Madersbacher/Mauritius/Superstock; 17TL, © Mary Clay/Ardea; 17BL, © Stephen J. Krasemann/DRK Photo; 17R, © Paul A. Souders/Corbis; 18, © Lennie & Uschi Rue III/Rue Wildlife Photos; 19, © Tom & Pat Leeson/Ardea; 20, © Daniel Cox/OSF/Photolibrary; 21T, © Erwin & Peggy Bauer/BCIUSA/Photoshot; 21B, © Tom Brakefield/Corbis; 22, © Gerry Ellis/Minden Pictures; 23T, © Kevin Snair/iStockphoto; 23M, © Jack Milchanowski/age fotostock/SuperStock; 23B, © Dorothy Keeler/Alamy; 24, © Michael N. Paras/age fotostock/Photolibrary; 25L, © Christopher J. Morris/Redux Pictures; 25R, © North Wind Pictures/Photolibrary; 26L, © Kent News & Picture/Corbis Sygma; 26R, © Kent News & Picture/Corbis Sygma; 27, © Everett Collection; 28, © 3483253554/Shutterstock; 29T, © Eric Gevaert/Shutterstock; 29B, © ZSSD/Minden Pictures.

Publisher: Kenn Goin

Editorial Director: Adam Siegel

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Design: Dawn Beard Creative

Photo Researcher: James O'Connor

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Reingold, Adam.

The beaver's lodge : building with leftovers / by Adam Reingold.

p. cm. — (Spectacular animal towns)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-59716-872-4 (library binding)

ISBN-10: 1-59716-872-6 (library binding)

1. Beavers—Juvenile literature. 2. Beavers—Habitations—Juvenile literature. I. Title.

QL737.R632R45 2010

599.37—dc22

2009011723

Copyright © 2010 Bearport Publishing Company, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission from the publisher.

For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 101 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6R, New York, New York 10003.

Printed in the United States of America.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Contents

A Very Big Discovery	4
Nature's Builders	6
Home at the Lodge	8
Meet the Family	10
Building with Trees and Leftovers	12
Food for All Seasons	14
Built for the Job	16
Sending a Message	18
Unfriendly Neighbors	20
Changing the Land	22
Beavers in Danger	24
Beavers Are Back!	26
Beaver Facts	28
More Animal Towns	29
Glossary	30
Bibliography	31
Read More	31
Learn More Online	31
Index	32
About the Author	32

A Very Big Discovery

On October 2, 2007, Canadian scientist Jean Thie (TEE) was studying **satellite photos** of Earth on his computer. He looked very carefully at a photo that showed **wetlands** in Canada's Wood Buffalo National Park. Suddenly, something in the photo caught Jean's attention. He zoomed in to take a closer look.

The world's longest beaver dam (shown in yellow) is about three feet (.9 m) high and four feet (1.2 m) wide. Few people have seen it because it is far from any roads or trails.



Jean saw a large object stretched between two wooded areas. As he studied the photo, he was shocked to discover that he was actually looking at a huge beaver **dam**. “To find a 500-meter (1,640-ft) dam is not that hard,” Jean said, “but 850 [meters] (2,789 ft) is quite amazing!” In fact, Jean had discovered the longest beaver dam in the world. It was longer than nine football fields placed end to end!

North American
beaver



Beavers are the largest member of the **rodent** family in North America, which also includes squirrels, mice, and rats. The furry builders can grow up to four feet (1.2 m) long.

Nature's Builders

The dam that Jean Thie discovered is located in western Canada. Yet beavers build dams all across North America, as well as in parts of Europe and Asia. Why do the furry **engineers** make them?

A beaver family, or **colony**, usually needs a **pond** where it can build its home. Most of the time, beavers don't go out and look for ponds. Instead, they make them using water from a river or stream. To do that, they first need to build a dam.

Beavers in the Wild



Where
North American
beavers live



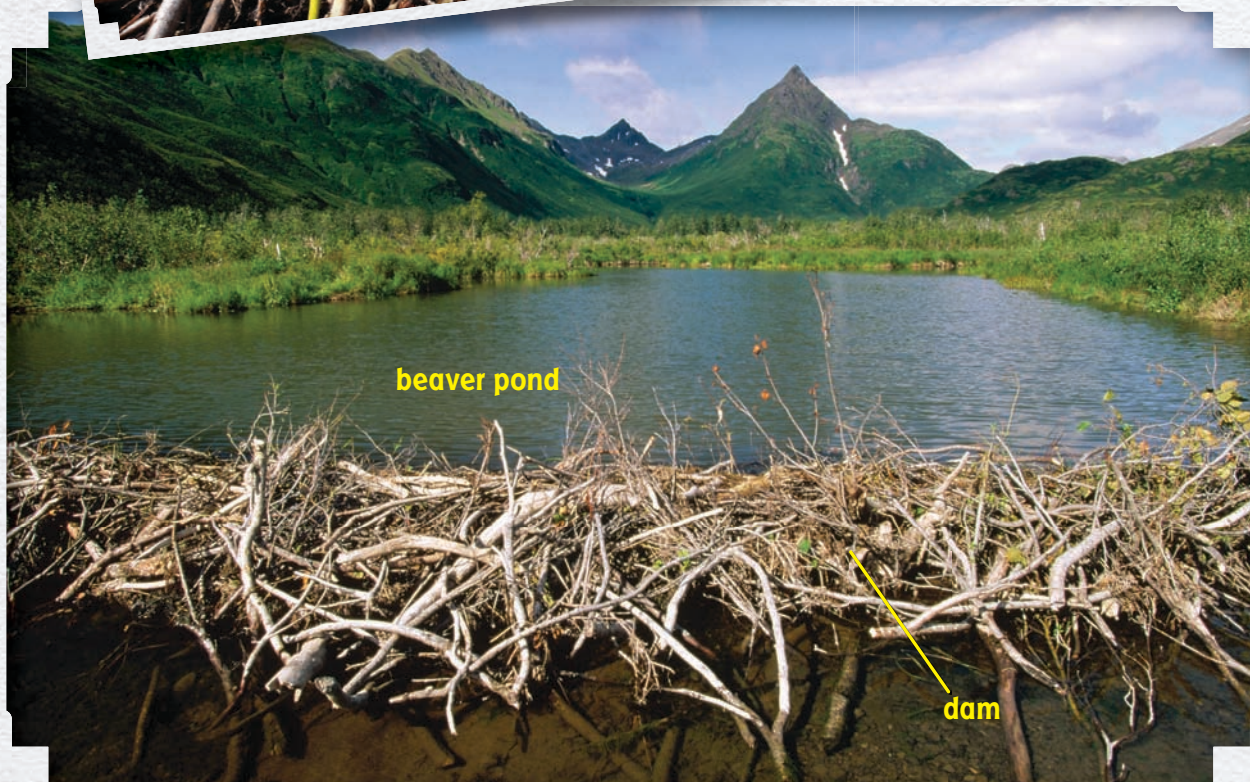
Where
Eurasian
beavers live

Instead of building a home in a pond, some beavers dig a home, called a den, into the side of a river or lake.

Beavers make a dam out of branches, logs, and mud. The dam stops the flow of water from a river or stream. The blocked water behind the dam spreads out over the nearby land and forms a pond. Now the busy animals can start their next project—building the family’s home, or **lodge**.



A beaver family can build a dam in about a week.



A pond created by a beaver dam is usually home to one beaver colony.

Index

- cache 15
- Canada 4, 6, 29
- castoreum 18
- chamber 9
- colony 6–7, 9, 10, 15, 18–19, 20, 28–29
- communication 18–19
- culverts 24
- dam 4–5, 6–7, 8–9, 11, 13, 14, 24, 28
- food 9, 11, 12, 14–15, 28
- fur 17, 25, 26, 28
- habitat 6, 22–23, 24, 26, 28
- hunters 25, 26
- kits 10–11
- length 5, 28
- life span 21, 28
- lodge 7, 8–9, 10–11, 13, 14–15, 19, 20, 26, 28
- naked mole rat 29
- nutria 29
- paws 16
- pond 6–7, 8, 10, 12, 14–15, 17, 18–19, 22, 28, 29
- population 26–27, 28
- predators 8–9, 20–21, 29
- reintroducing 26–27
- rodents 5, 28–29
- scent mounds 18
- swimming 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20–21
- tail 17, 19, 28
- teeth 12, 16
- Thie, Jean 4–5, 6
- trees 9, 11, 12–13, 14–15, 16–17, 28
- weight 28
- wetlands 4, 23, 26, 29

About the Author

Adam Reingold has written books about communities, history, and science. He lives near the East River in New York City with his wife, Jennifer, and their Portuguese Water Dog, Monkey.

[Intentionally Left Blank]

**Spectacular
Animal Towns**

The Beaver's Lodge

Building with Leftovers

Scientist Jean Thie was studying satellite photos of Earth on his computer. He looked very carefully at a photo that showed wetlands in Canada's Wood Buffalo National Park. Suddenly, something caught his attention. Jean zoomed in and saw a large object stretched between two areas. As he studied the photo, he was shocked to discover that he was looking at a huge beaver dam—the longest one in the world!

Beavers build dams to create ponds where they can construct their cozy, dome-shaped homes. Look inside to find out how these furry engineers cut down trees, haul heavy logs, and use mud and sticks to hold their building projects together. You'll also find out how beavers use icy water to store food and carry out other surprising tasks as they go about their busy lives.

The Ant's Nest

A Huge, Underground City

The Bat's Cave

A Dark City

The Beaver's Lodge

Building with Leftovers

The Coral Reef

A Giant City Under the Sea

The Honey Bee's Hive

A Thriving City

The Prairie Dog's Town

A Perfect Hideaway

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

www.bearportpublishing.com

ISBN-13: 978-1-59716-872-4
ISBN-10: 1-59716-872-6



9 781597 168724