# **Nature's Engineers**

Beavers are large rodents with strong teeth that are used to cut down trees. They are famous for building dams. Beaver dams turn streams into ponds, providing places to live for the beavers and other animals, such as wood ducks and river otters.

#### Not All Beaver Floods Are Good

Connecticut has lots of beavers. Sometimes, beavers flood areas which shouldn't be flooded (such as roads or farmer's fields). When this happens, the beavers may be trapped during the trapping season or pipes may be put in the dam to let the water out. Towns have people that make decisions on what to do when flooding occurs on public land.

### Made for the Water

Unscramble the words below and learn how beavers are adapted to live in the water. (Answers below).

## bbeedw dinh teef oroferptaw fru ddlape-sahdep tlai



Beavers drag branches back to their lodge to eat later.



## Did you know?

The Native Americans and early settlers traded beaver skins, or pelts, as money. The pelts were shipped to Europe where they were turned into felt and made into hats.

Today, beaver pelts are used to make coats, hats, gloves, rugs and blankets.

#### **Livable Lodges**

Most beavers live in lodges that they make out of sticks and mud. Inside, there is a dry area for shelter and a place to have young. Several underwater entrances lead to the lodge.

#### **Answers to Quiz:**

webbed hind feet, waterproof fur, paddle-shaped tail

## Busy, Busy, Beaver

This beaver found the perfect branch to add to his lodge, but he needs help navigating through the water lilies in the marsh! Help the beaver find his way back home.

