



A Beaver Story

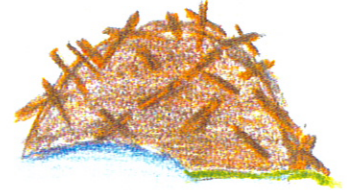
**Written by the 6th Grade
Team Phoenix**

A Beaver Story

A children's tale that chronicles the history of the American Beaver in Massachusetts



Written by the 6th Grade
Team Phoenix
Spring 2008



**McAuliffe Regional Charter Public School
Framingham, MA**

How this story works...

The top part of each page is the story part. It's more kid friendly than the writing on the bottom part. The writing in the box at the bottom of each page is scientific and has more detailed information about beavers.

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“Why, hello there, young one! Welcome to Bogastow Brook,” said the old Oak Tree.
“Hello, I just came from up stream. Is this a nice place to stay?” Beaver asked shyly.
“Actually, this might not be the safest place for you,” said Oak Tree, wisely.
“How come?” asked the curious beaver. “It looks safe to me.”
“Well, why don’t you sit down and listen to this important story.”



Bogastow Brook Beavers, Holliston, MA

This is mostly a true story that takes place in Holliston, Massachusetts. There really is a Bogastow Brook that is presently inhabited by beavers. However, as you will learn later in the book, they are unknowingly in conflict with humans by living in this location.

Though we don't know if there were actually beavers living in this specific location long ago, there is a very good chance of it. And, if they didn't actually live in this specific location, they did live in places just like it. So, while this story takes place in Holliston, it's a story that could have taken place in a lot of other areas in Massachusetts as well as other New England states.

Oak Tree began, “Way back when I was a sapling, I remember the first family of beavers in Bogastow Brook. They built lodges and dams out of branches from my fellow trees.”

“Oh, I build lodges and dams too. My parents taught me how!” exclaimed Beaver.



Beaver Lodges and Dams

Beavers create dams to produce a pond that they can live in. Other animals benefit from the pond because they can live in it. Beaver dams filter dirt out of water that passes by. When beavers make dams, they have to weigh down the sticks with rocks. Most dams are 15 to 95 feet long. Some dams are longer than a soccer field.

Beaver lodges are protection from predators and a home. Beavers also have underground tunnels that lead to their lodge; they also use it to escape from predators. They use mud on the outside of the lodge to keep it together. There are different types of lodges. One of the lodge types is an island lodge, which is a lodge that is in the middle of the beaver pond and is the safest. The other type of a beaver lodge is a bank lodge, which is a lodge that is attached to the shoreline. The beavers also have burrows that are in the side of the bank and act as a temporary home while they build their lodge.

Beaver continued, “The water behind the dam formed a pond. My parents said that the pond would keep us young beavers safe from predators like otters and coyotes.”

“The calm waters attract many other animals too. Birds, frogs, fish, and deer make their homes in and near beaver ponds. It is very beautiful,” Oak Tree replied.

“Wow, I never knew beaver ponds did that stuff!” said Beaver.

“How do you build those dams, anyway?” asked Oak Tree.



Beavers and Wetlands

Other than humans, beavers are the most environment-changing species on the planet. They do this by building dams on rivers to create beaver ponds. Since this stops the flow of water, sediment and nutrients are collected in the pond and settle down to the bottom, creating a fertile environment. This allows many different plants and fish to live there, in turn causing other animals to come to the pond to eat and drink. These include deer, bears, and otters. Much later, when the beavers move out and the dam breaks, the fertile soil remains, creating a fertile meadow, which then can grow into a forest.

“My webbed feet are great for carrying logs through the water and patting down the mud on the dam. I also have yellowish-orange bucked teeth that help me chew down trees. My long, scaly tail helps me balance and steer when I’m swimming, and my pelt keeps me warm and dry even in the freezing cold water,” explained the beaver.

“Really? That’s very interesting, I never knew that,” said Oak Tree.



Characteristics of Beavers

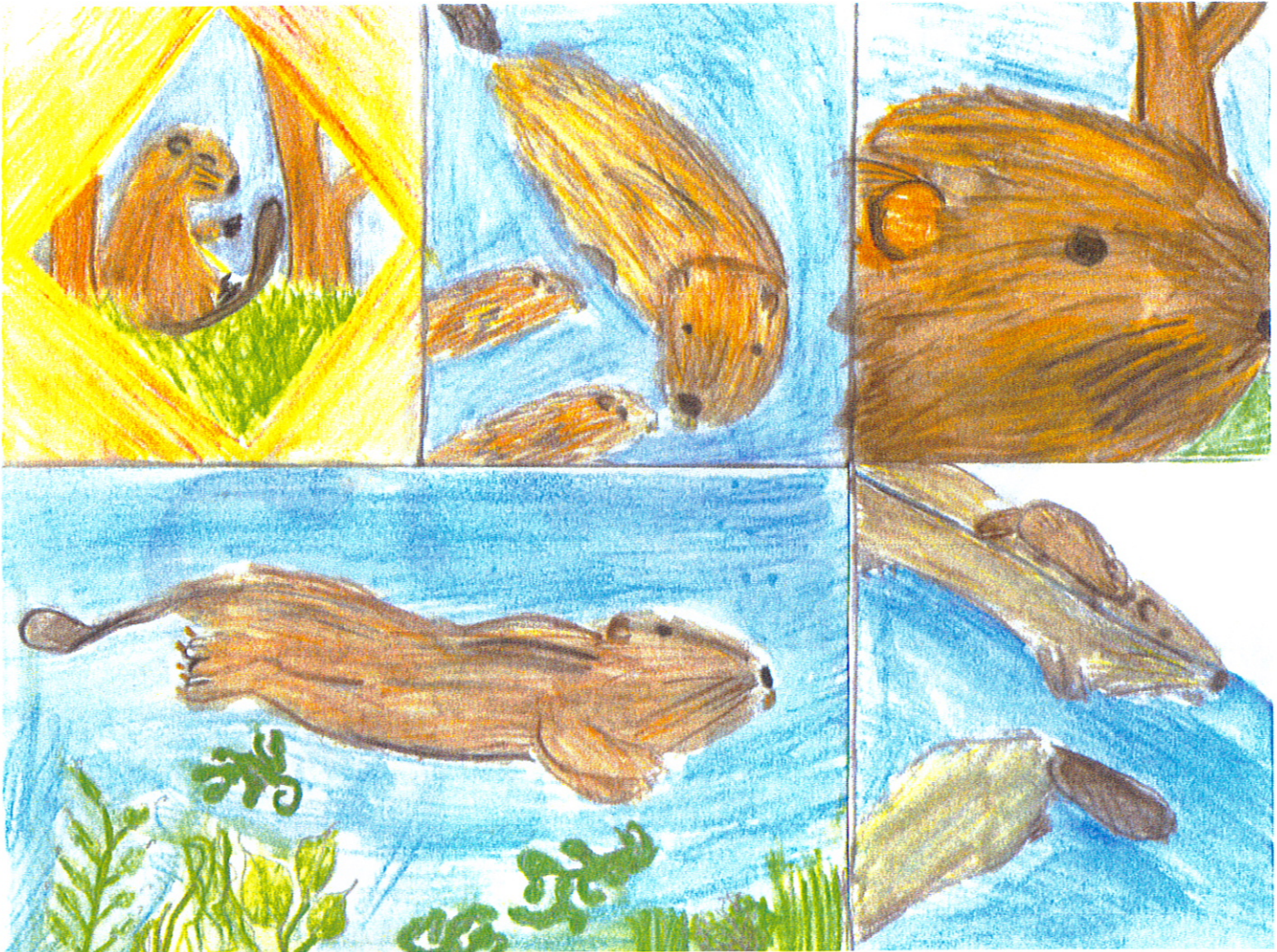
Beavers have quite interesting characteristics. The fur on a beaver has a lot of history. The European colonists used to trap beavers to kill them for their fur. The beaver pelts are also waterproof because of the castoreum oil on their fur. Beavers also have large tails, which help them steer in the water, keep their balance when chewing down trees, and enable them to communicate with other beavers.

Beaver feet are also interesting because they are webbed and that helps them glide easily through water. Beaver’s main teeth are long, orange incisors that are used to cut down trees. The teeth on a beaver never stop growing. They chew trees to keep their teeth down to a size because if they didn’t, their teeth will grow so long, that they will not be able to open their mouth to eat.

“I’ve seen lots of young beavers come from upstream, find a mate and stay for years. What was your family like?” asked Oak Tree.

“I had a mama beaver, a papa beaver, and two litters of brothers and sisters. When I was two, I left home. Do you know if there are any nice female beavers here?”

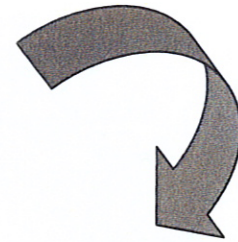
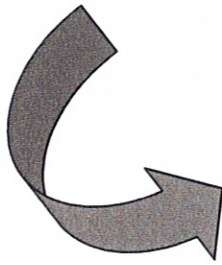
“Yes, I’m sure you’ll find another beaver from this area to make a family with,” replied Oak Tree.



Beaver Families

Did you know that baby beavers are called kits? Adult beavers mate in the winter and about 3.5 months later they have 3-4 kits in their litter. Kits stay with their parents for about two years. The beavers (that were kits) help take care of the new litter, which means they’re “baby sitting” their new brothers and sisters. When their parents have their third litter, the first litter will leave because there isn’t enough space in the lodge or habitat. The same thing will happen to the second litter when the fourth litter is born. About a year after the beavers have left, they will find a mate, have babies, and raise a family of their own.

Oak Tree continued, “This has been a popular place for beavers in the past. Young beavers grow strong here by eating a lot of birch leaves and the soft layer of cambium under the bark. Long ago, there were also bears and wolves, which were the predators of the beavers.”



Food Chains

The food chain shows who is eating what in a habitat. This food chain shows a beaver eating the leaves of a tree and the bear is going to eat the beaver. In other words, the organisms are getting energy from each other. It all started by the plant doing photosynthesis and getting energy from the sun. This is the simple way to show what organisms eat in an ecosystem.

“I remember one day when a hungry brown bear crept down to the bank of the beaver pond where two little kits were hanging around, and the bear came down and ate one of the kits.”



Food Webs

As you can see, food webs are much more complex than food chains. They include many organisms in an ecosystem compared to a food chain. Here are some examples: A deer eats plants and so does a beaver. A lynx or a wolf also might eat the beaver. Plants always get their food from photosynthesis.

“The thing is, Beaver, people were also your predators. They came on boats from a long way away just to trap and kill beavers. The people wanted your waterproof fur to make fashionable hats and warm coats, and your castoreum to make perfumes.”



Trapping and Trading

Beavers were a major hunting source in Europe. People wanted them for their pelts because they could be used for hats and winter coats. The hats and winter coats were fashionable in the 1700s and 1800s. The pelts were used because they hold their shape well. Also, they are warm and waterproof. After the European beavers started to decrease in population, the Europeans came to America. There, the Native Americans traded the beaver pelts with the Europeans, since the Native Americans used the beaver pelts to stay warm.

“How did the humans trap us to get our pelts?” asked the beaver.

Oak Tree replied, “Well...the humans used traps such as leg-hold traps; body traps, and most common was the jaw trap. These horrific jaw traps required a trapper to put a beaver scent on a pointy stick, luring you in. Then, when you reared up to smell the stick, the metal mandibles went CLANG!! After that, you would be drawn underwater and drowned.”



Beaver Traps

The cruel traps that trappers used to acquire pelts were quite effective. The most widely used trap was a leg-hold trap, and this is how it would work: A trapper would place castor, a substance that comes from beavers on a stick to draw them over. Under this stick would be a jaw-trap, and when the beaver stood up the jaws would close and the beaver would be drawn down, and eventually drown. Among this were other traps, but this was the most common and the most effective.

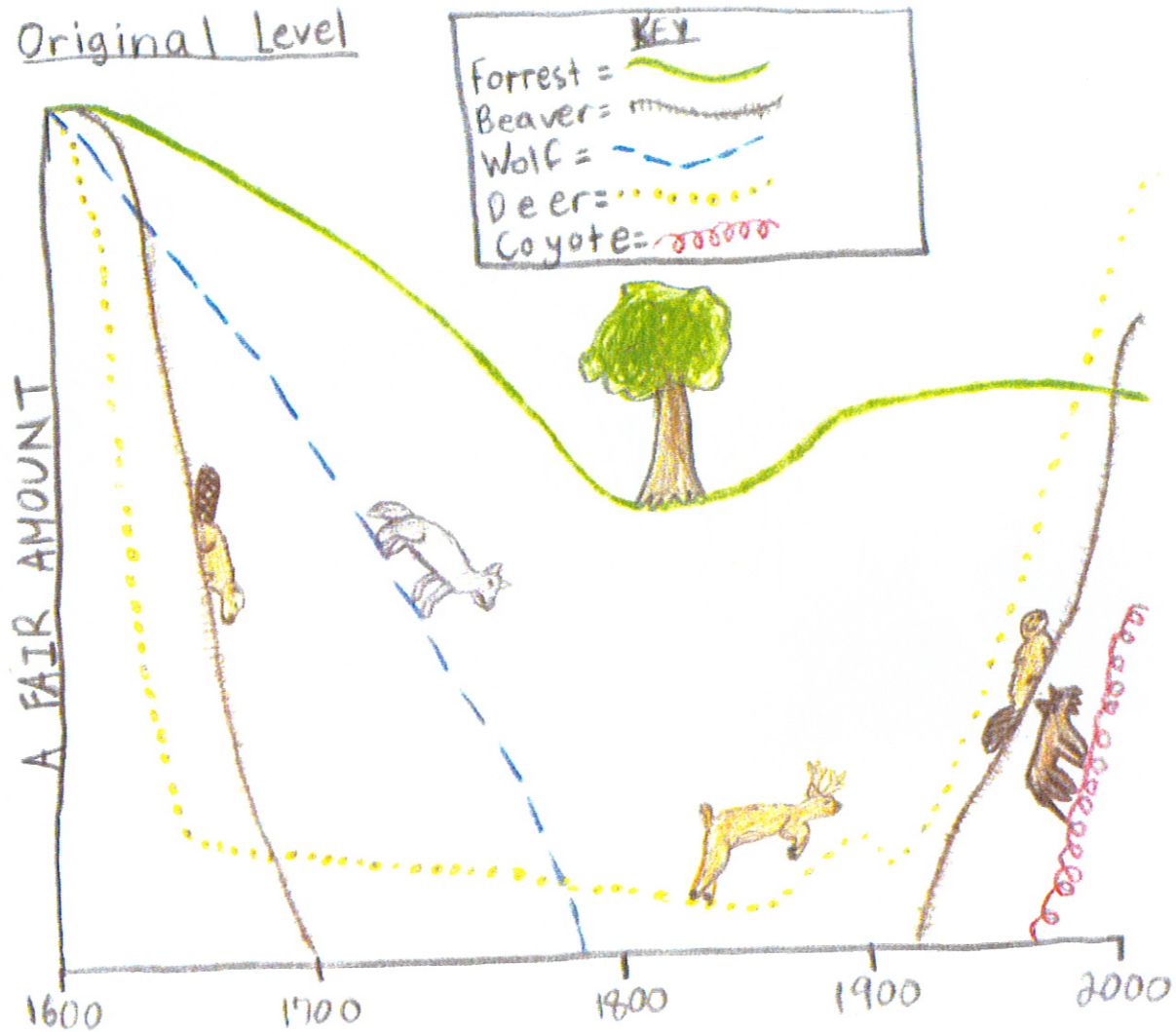
“Beaver, this may shock you, but people trapped so many beavers that the beaver population dropped a lot. However, this wasn’t the only reason that I started seeing beavers less often. Look around you; see all these trees? About 200 years ago, these trees weren’t here because the colonists cleared the land for homes, farms, and pastures.”



Colonists Clear the Land

In the 1740s Europeans colonists started coming to Massachusetts. They started cutting down trees to make homes and farm land. By 1830 there was a lot of farmland and barely any trees. So, not only were beavers getting trapped and killed for hats, but with only some forests left, they didn’t have a good place to live anymore.

Original Level



“What do you mean when you say the beaver population dropped?” asked Beaver.

“Well,” Oak Tree began sadly, “Around 1700, beavers disappeared completely from Massachusetts. The beavers were gone for 200 years. When they were gone, the dams collapsed, letting the ponds drain. The animals that needed your ponds had fewer places to live in Massachusetts. For nature, this was a sad time in Massachusetts’s history.”

“Then, suddenly, in the 1800s, the people started to drag their items out of their homes. I was confused at first, until I heard the farmers talking to each other. It turned out that the farmers were leaving to go to work in big factories where they would make more money (green paper that has some odd value to it). Over time, the trees grew back because of all the new, unoccupied land. It was amazing to see.”

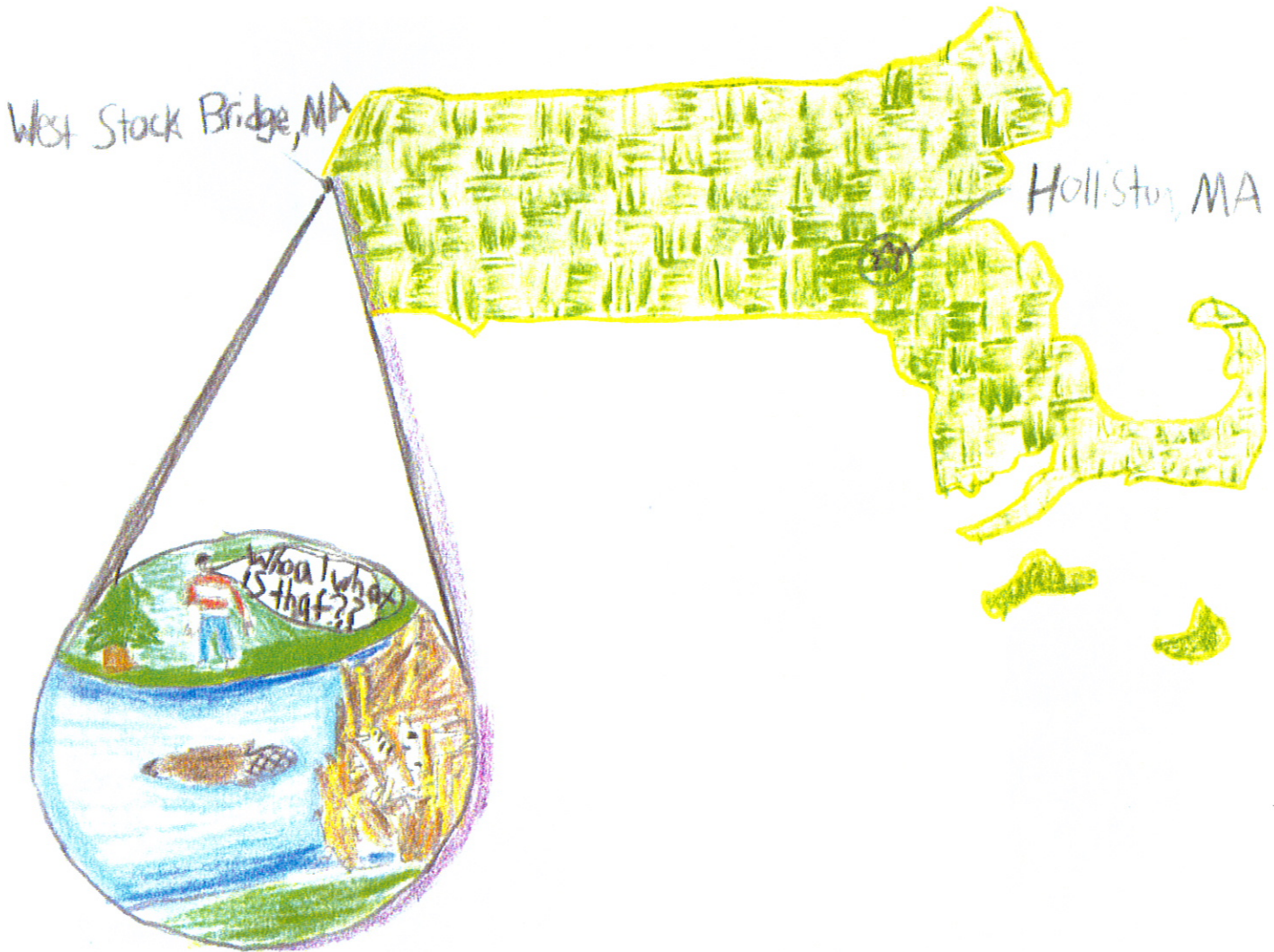


Farm Abandonment and Forest Succession

In the mid-1800s, the colonists left the farms and set off for the city in search of new occupations. Everyone left because the small farms weren't worth enough money compared to the larger farms and factory work. The abandonment caused white pine trees to grow and wildlife to return to Massachusetts. Animals were abundant again, and soon the land turned into a full-fledged forest.

“So if beavers were gone for 200 years, that means they came back in the 1900s?” asked Beaver.

“Yes, beavers came back in 1928. I was so happy to hear that you had returned. In fact, humans were so thrilled that they went to New York and brought beavers from there into Massachusetts!” Oak Tree explained.



Beavers Return to Massachusetts

Beavers returned to Massachusetts in 1928. They were first sighted in West Stockbridge. People were shocked and excited that beavers had returned to the state because this was the first sighting of beavers since 1750! After that, the public sent trappers to New York who trapped a few beavers and released them in Lenox in 1932. In 1946 there were about 300 beavers in 45 colonies all located west of the Connecticut River. People were so excited that beavers returned then, but now people want beavers to leave Massachusetts.

“Wow, it’s like we were famous or something,” said Beaver.

“Well, Beaver, not exactly famous but close,” said Oak Tree. “At first, it was a huge celebration as beaver families spread across Massachusetts, but as more families came here, humans started trapping you again. Now, the only major predators you have are humans.”



Beaver Predators Today

Beaver predators are similar to years ago, but some are different too. In 1996, a law was set not to use a certain type of beaver trap and to use conibear traps, but most people don't like these traps and ruin the dams instead. Humans are now replacing animals as predators to beavers. Otters and coyotes are also predators to kits. Bears and wolves used to be predators to bears, but no wolves and not a lot of bears are living in MA anymore.

“Why are humans allowed to trap us?” asked beaver.

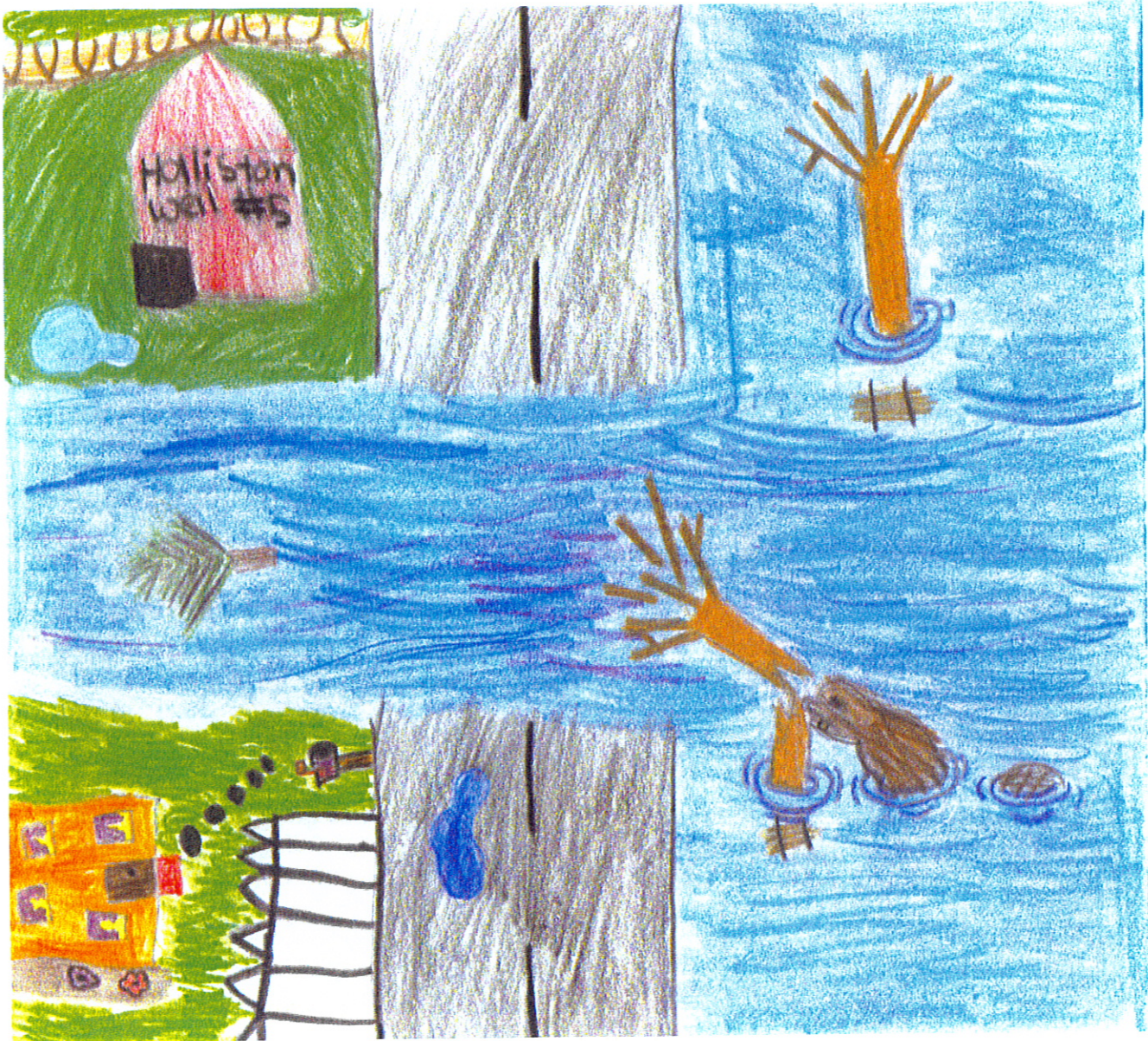
“You guys have been getting trapped for a long time. But, at least there are now laws that humans have to follow if they want to trap you. Humans made these laws to keep the beaver population ‘in check,’” replied Oak Tree.



Trapping Laws

Beavers have been getting trapped for a long time. There used to be no laws about trapping the beavers, but now there are certain times that you can trap. This is called the Legal Harvest. This is to keep the population down. There are also trapping laws to keep the population up. This keeps a balance so that there are not too many beavers or too little beavers so humans don't complain. Also, there is something called a special permit to remove a beaver, most commonly for harmful diseases. When you are trapping you have to have a certain kind of trap, called a conibear trap. These are the laws for trapping beavers.

“Today, there are many beaver and human conflicts. In fact, I remember the time when a woman living close to Bogastow Brook was concerned about a beaver pond flooding her backyard.”



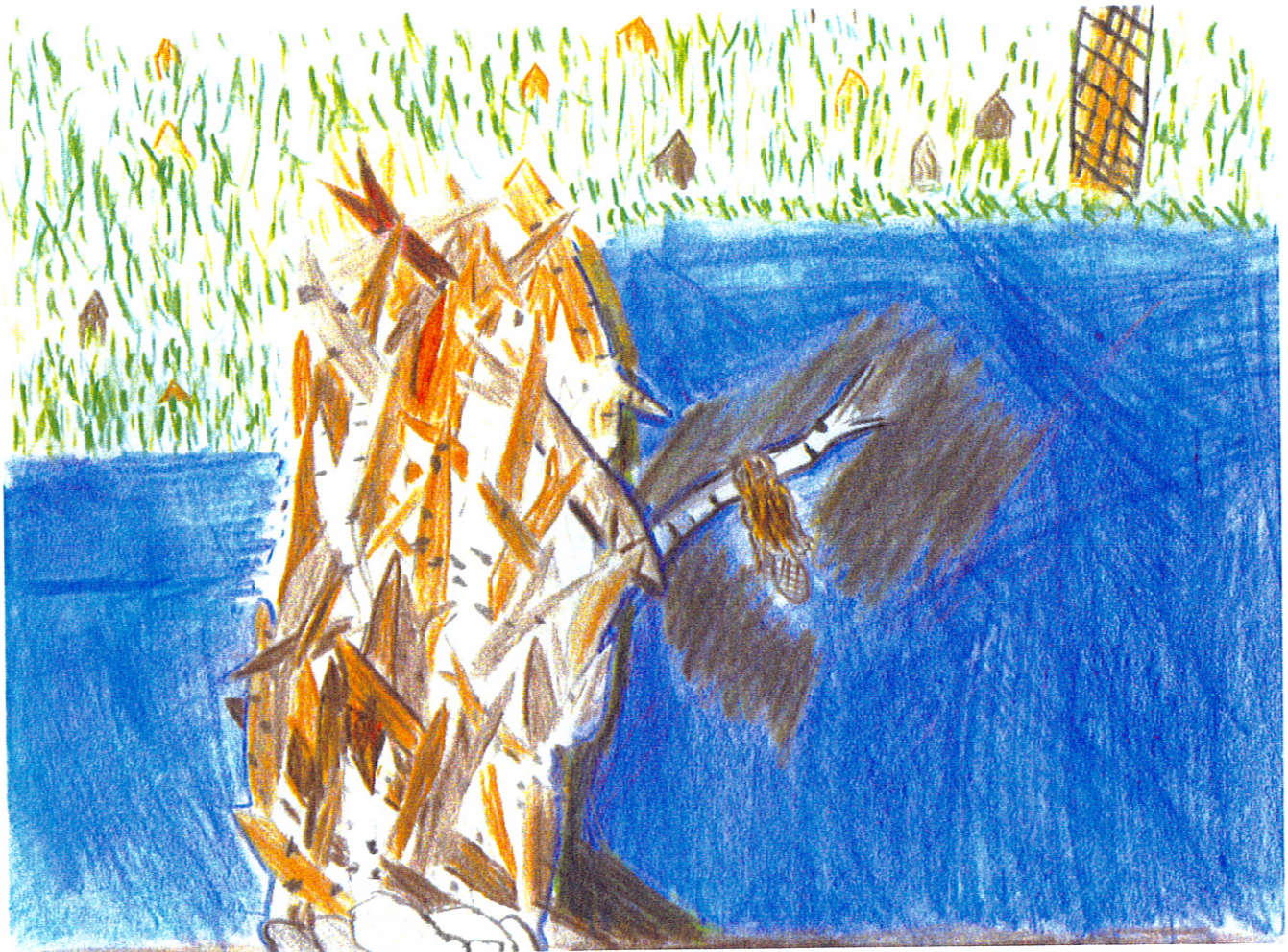
Beavers can be Harmful

In Massachusetts there are a lot of beaver and human conflicts. A conflict people run into with beavers are the destruction of trees. An order for the beavers to make their homes, they need to cut down people's trees; which they might like. Another conflict is flooding. When beavers make their dams, the dams can flood roads, homes, and yards. One last conflict beavers and humans run into is water quality. Beavers are known to carry diseases like Giardia or Cryptosporidium. If these diseases get into the drinking water, people's lives can be put at risk.

“Don’t feel bad,” said Oak Tree, “you don’t just cause problems. Many humans and other critters enjoy your presence.”

“Then why do people complain about us?” Beaver asked sadly.

“Well, Bogastow Brook’s water is pretty close to a public water well, and humans are worried about some parasites getting into the water they drink. If parasites that sometimes live with beavers get into drinking water, people would get really sick. But, what most people don’t know is that beavers can actually improve water quality.”



Beavers can be Helpful

Some people believe that beavers are only harmful to humans, but they can be very helpful. One way they are helpful is that the dams they build collect large amounts of silt, break down toxic chemicals, and remove sediment. This makes our water cleaner and safer to drink. The beaver dams also minimize water flow, which prevents flooding downstream.

Beavers create wetland habitats for many other organisms, such as, wood ducks, frogs, toads, and fish. Fishermen enjoy the plentiful amounts of fish; photographers love to take pictures of the wildlife. Some people just like to watch the beavers build dams and lodges, cut down trees, and some even like when they slap their tails. This goes to show that beavers are not only bad; they are very good to the environment.

Oak Tree continued, “It’s okay; the humans have created kind ways to deal with you when you are causing problems. They use what they call beaver deceivers and sometimes put fencing around trees that you cut down to make lodges and dams.”

“How are these methods kind to us? Beaver *deceivers*? Keeping us from getting our food? These don’t seem like kind things to do,” said Beaver in a worried tone.

“Would you rather have humans trap you?” Oak Tree asked gravely.



Dealing with Beaver Conflicts

There are three different non-violent resolutions for human and beaver conflicts. One is fencing in trees and shrubs that you don’t want to get cut down. If you want to protect an orchard or a nursery you can use normal fencing. The last non-lethal conflict resolution method is W.L.C.D or beaver deceivers. A beaver deceiver is a device used to lower the water level. Those are all the non-lethal beaver conflict resolutions.

Even though there are non-lethal ways to deal with beavers there are also lethal ways to get rid of them. One way to deal or get rid of beavers is to trap and remove them. In conclusion, there are many more options that are non-lethal than lethal resolutions.

“Why don’t they just ask us to move? I bet we’d do it,” said Beaver.

“The funny thing is that there has been a law passed against moving beavers to new locations,” Oak Tree said.

“What? That’s not fair; don’t we have a choice?” asked Beaver.

“No, not really, unless you choose to move on your own...”



Why Can't We Just Move Them?

We can't simply move the beaver for two reasons. The first is that if you move the beaver it's just moving the problem somewhere else, for example if you move the beaver from Holliston to Natick they could start flooding and causing water problems there. The second reason is because there are so many beavers in Massachusetts already that it's hard to find a stream that's not already inhabited by a beaver. Those are the reasons we can't simple move the beaver, and because of those exact reasons there was a law passed against moving beavers.

Beaver thought a moment, taking in what oak tree said. Then he asked oak tree: "How come humans make those decisions about our independence and our rights? Who gave them the right to say who gets to live where? What are my rights?"



What's next in Holliston?

Now that the beavers are back, Holliston has some decisions to make about dealing with this problem. They've been thinking about creating a new beaver deceiver that goes deeper into the ground and will always help keep the water level low enough so that the beavers can live there without affecting the condition of water in the well. Some of our class thinks we should still trap and kill them. Other people think we should make a living condition where the beavers wouldn't want to come back, and others think Holliston should just build a filtration system or build a wall around the well so that the water wouldn't get in but right now the decision is still up in the air for now.

“But I mind my own business!” Beaver blurted out.

“You might think that,” Oak Tree sighed, “but to some humans, you’re a pest.”

“Are all humans that way?!” Beaver asked angrily.

“No, not all of them, but a lot,” Oak Tree replied. “The people that aren’t that way are trying to convince other people, though, so all hope is not lost.”

“But...what can *we* do?” asked Beaver.

“Sadly, there’s not much you can do to convince the humans,” Oak Tree said sadly. “All you can really do now is to choose if you want to live here, or to try your chances somewhere else.”

Beaver thought for a moment.

“I’ll see if I can live here. Maybe I can do something,” he said. Oak Tree smiled.

“Farewell, then, Beaver,” he said.



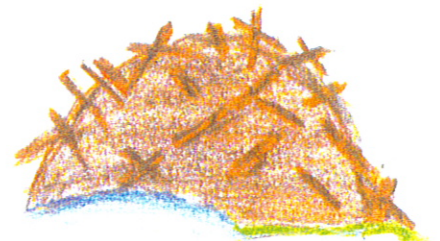
Conclusion

Right now, some professionals are discussing the beaver problem. Even they don't know what to do right now. They don't want any beavers to die, but they don't want people being unhappy either. People are all different, and so are their perspectives. In the end, hopefully everyone will have a happy ending – people and beavers alike.

Glossary



Burrows	Underground homes
Castor/Castoreum	Scented oil stored under a beaver's tail
Characteristic	A feature of a living thing
Conibear Trap	A trap for beavers
Cryptosporidium	A parasite carried by beavers
Dam	A structure beavers build out of logs, sticks, and mud that slows down the flow of water
Extinct	Certain animal not living any more
Fertile	Full of nutrients
Filter	A way to remove stuff like dirt and silt from water
Giardia	A parasite carried by beavers
Habitat	Natural surroundings of a living thing
Holliston	A town in Massachusetts
Incisors	Teeth used for cutting
Inhabit	Live in a place as a home
Kits	Baby/young beavers
Litter	A group of baby animals born from the same mother
Lodge	A beaver's home built mostly from sticks, branches, logs, and mud
Parasite	A tiny organism that affects living things
Pasture	A large grassy field used by farmers
Pelt	The fur of a mammal
Predator	An animal that hunts and kills other animals for food
Sapling	A young tree
Sediment	Sand under the water



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About Our Experts

Barbara McGrath – Local Author

Barbara McGrath is an author who lives in Natick, MA. Ms. McGrath came to our school as an expert to help us learn about the process of writing, illustrating, and publishing books. She spoke to us about her experience writing books and helped us write and illustrate a book titled, *The Three Little Beavers*. We learned that making a book is hard, takes a long time, and involves a lot of collaboration and teamwork when you write a book with a large number of people!

When we were doing field work in Holliston, we interviewed Allen Rutberg, Laura Hajduk, a woman named Marianne, Ron Sharpin, Karan Randall, and The American beaver who really was Mr. Levy. We learned about beaver and human conflicts from each person's perspective.

Allen Rutberg Holliston Resident on the Conservation Commission

Allen Rutberg liked beavers and doesn't like killing beavers. He thinks it's important to try to find ways to live with beavers instead of killing them. He came to our school to give us the background information on beavers and their habitat.



Laura Hajduk Mass Wildlife Beaver Biologist

Laura's perspective was that she liked beavers. But at the same time she knows that beavers can cause problems. She also doesn't like killing beavers, but she knows that you sometimes have to kill beavers for safety.



Doug Valovcin Holliston Water Department

Doug has a son who is a 7th grader at MRCPS. He helped our teachers plan the field work in Holliston at Well #5 and at Well #6. Since his job has to do with keeping the water safe, the beaver have been a big issue for him to deal with.



Ron Sharpen
Water Superintendent

Ron Sharpen is the water superintendent of Holliston MA. His job is to make sure that the Holliston water is safe for people to drink. His thought on the beavers is that he likes them but he knows that his job comes first. Sometimes that means that he has to have beavers trapped so that the water doesn't get parasites in it.



Steven Levy
*Expeditionary Learning
School Designer*

Mr. Levy has worked with us a few times this year, helping our teachers out with some lessons. His nickname is "beaver", so it made sense for him to play the role of the beaver during the interview. The beaver asked some important questions about why humans get to decide who has what rights and how come beaver don't really have any rights. He shared the idea that humans should be the ones to move if beavers are bothering them.



Marianne
Holliston resident

Marianne is a Holliston resident that had a beaver problem. Her backyard was flooded by the rising water of the beaver pond. However, since her septic system was in her front yard and so wasn't affected, it was illegal for her to take action against beavers.



Karen Randall
Holliston resident

Karen Randall was a Holliston resident and had two children that came to MRCPS. She enjoys having animals on her property, but it made her nervous to know her water was being affected by the beavers living near Well #5.



About the Authors

This book was written by sixth graders from MRCPS. Here's a little about us...

- Zaven lives in Framingham, MA and enjoys playing hockey and lacrosse.
- Clara lives Marlborough, MA and like reading and track.
- Richie lives in Framingham, MA and he likes to dirt bike.
- Tom lives in Framingham, MA and likes to play Warhammer.
- Brigitte is from Framingham, MA and enjoys riding her bike and swimming.
- Mikayla is from Framingham, MA and she likes to make bracelets.
- Aldo lives in Framingham, MA and likes to skateboard.
- Jacob is from Natick, MA and likes to play lacrosse.
- Mark lives in Holliston, MA and likes to play baseball.
- Tom lives in Framingham, MA and likes to skateboard, and snowboard.
- Charlie is from Natick, MA and enjoys playing video games.
- Leslie is from Framingham, MA and she enjoys reading.
- Elias lives in Framingham, MA and likes to ski in the winter.
- Chibuzor is from Framingham, MA. His hobbies are drawing and playing soccer.
- Nikky lives in Framingham, MA and like gymnastics.
- Isabel lives in Newton, MA and likes to play soccer.
- Yamilka is from Framingham, MA. She likes art.
- Dillon lives in Ashland, MA and likes to play baseball.
- George is from Framingham, MA and likes to play baseball.
- Margaret is from Framingham, MA. She likes to play basketball.
- Cameron is from Needham, MA and like Aikido.
- Jonathan lives in Framingham, MA. He likes to play baseball.
- Elliot lives in Framingham, MA and likes to write stories.
- Allysa is from Framingham, MA and enjoys swimming
- Cordelia lives in Framingham, MA and likes jewelry making.
- Jake lives in Natick, MA enjoys playing basketball.
- Katie lives in Ashland, MA and she likes to cook.
- Carlos lives in Framingham, MA and he likes to play video games.
- Christian lives in Framingham, MA he likes to travel and skateboard.
- Emma Rose lives in Natick, MA and likes everything.
- Alex lives in Natick, MA and likes soccer.
- Tyler lives in Ashland, MA and enjoys basketball.
- Henry lives in Framingham, MA. He likes to skateboard and swim.
- Jared lives in Natick, MA and likes origami.

About McAuliffe Regional Charter Public School...

McAuliffe Regional Charter Public School (MRCPS) is an Expeditionary Learning School. Expeditionary learning happens when we learn by doing hands-on activities and investigate specific topics. Some of the activities we do involve completing field work at different sites, like farms and museums, and we ask experts to visit our class to teach us about their expertise. We learn the same things as all the other sixth graders at other schools. We just learn about these concepts by doing in-depth investigations of a specific example of what we're learning about. For instance, when we were learning about decomposition, we went to a farm and learned about compost and how the plants break down and decompose, returning nutrients to the soil. Our team also went to a place called the Farm School, where we lived and worked for three days. At the Farm School, we worked hard doing different farm chores, and we tested the soil for nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus. Another interesting thing about are school are that we have small groups of people called crews. In crew we meet and talk about thing such as highs and lows of our week. We also have great teachers that let us do really cool stuff. We go on awesome trips and have a lot of fun at our school.

...and this Expedition

In this expedition, we started out by learning a lot about an island in Lake Superior, called Isle Royale. Many moose and wolves live on Isle Royale, so some scientists have been collecting data on the moose and wolf populations of Isle Royale for over 40 years. By studying the moose and wolves on Isle Royale, we learned about predator-prey relationships, food chains, food webs, and energy transfer in a pretty interesting way. We watched a video of a lecture made by one of the scientists, played an energy transfer game using lots of little kidney beans, and made predictions about what will happen to the moose and wolves in the future.

After that, we became experts on the story of the American beaver in Massachusetts. To help us learn about the American beaver, we had a beaver biologist named Allen Rutberg come to our school. We knew we were going to end up creating a book about the American beaver in Massachusetts, so we also invited an author to our school. Barbara McGrath helped us learn about the process of creating a book. Then for about three weeks we worked steadily to create the writing and illustrations for the pages of the book. We worked in pairs on one or two pages of the book. We gave each other feedback, and we revised our writing and illustrations many times. Finally, we scanned the illustrations, put the writing and pictures onto each page, and sent *A Beaver Story* to the printer.

The Three Little Beavers

One day near Well #5 in Holliston, Massachusetts, there were three little beavers named Slaps, Bobert, and Woody. They had an outrageous collage party, and the next morning the lodge was trashed. Mama beaver came out yelling, "It is time for you to leave the lodge you messy rodents!" Eventually, Mama calmed her nerves down.

Mama beaver said, "Get out into the world and build the best dam you can, but watch out for bears like Winnie the Pooh and Hulk!" Then Mama beaver started to cry as her kits went into the world to take care of themselves. On the beaver's way out, Slaps tripped Woody into the water.

Slaps, Bobert, and Woody then branched out to different parts of Holliston. Slaps built a lodge of grass, Bobert built a lodge of sticks, and Woody built a lodge of sticks and rocks.

One day, a big, fat, mean bear named Hulk, was hungry and decided to go to Slap's house and eat him.

"Open up or I'll tear, rip, and break your lodge apart!" screamed Hulk.

"Not by the scales on my taily-tail-tail!" yelled Slaps.

Hulk the bear roared, stood upon his hind legs, and crushed the grass lodge down, and ate Slaps the beaver! Then he went on his way.

The Hulk lumbered to Bobert's lodge made out of sticks and said "Let me in!" Bobert said, "Not by the scales on my taily-tail tail!" Then the Hulk tore and ripped at the lodge, and gobbled Bobert up.

Hulk the bear, went down to Woody's lodge next, which was made out of mud, sticks, and stones. At this time, it was the middle of a particularly harsh and cold winter, and the top of the lodge was coated in the slippery ice.

"Let me in!" Hulk said angrily.

Woody replied, "Not by the scales on my taily-tail-tail!"

Hulk punched, rammed, and slashed, but couldn't knock the lodge down. Every time he tried to ram the lodge, he slipped on the ice.

Hulk couldn't take it anymore! He decided that the only way to get in was to climb on top of Woody's lodge. The rocks and sticks were so slippery with ice that it took several tries to get all the way to the top.

Meanwhile, down below, Woody heard the bear, and slipped one stick out of the ceiling of the lodge. That one stick caused the lodge to fall, sticks tumbling into the icy water. As Woody makes a narrow escape out of his lodge, Hulk started to tumble and fell.

He landed with a crash and broke through the floor of the lodge. Then Hulk fell into the freezing water, got hypothermia, and died.

The next morning, after fixing his house, Woody went to visit his Mother near well #5, but she was no where to be found! The little beaver was so overwhelmed that he dropped to his knees and started to cry.

It turned out that his Mom was responsible for the well #5 problem. While Woody was looking around for his Mother, he left a footprint that was soon discovered by Ms. Harrison's fieldwork group.

THE END!!

