



# Beavers as a keystone species



**Beavers are a 'Keystone species' meaning their presence affects the survival of other animals by changing habitats and creating new ones. Complete this activity to find out how by creating wetlands beavers affect other species around them.**

## Instructions

### Print

Print the species cards and the description cards on A4 paper. For best results use stock card.

### Cut out

Using scissors cut along the edge of cards.

### Mix and match

Put all of the species and description cards on a table and mix them up! Then try to match the species with the description which you believe most accurately describes the opportunities beavers create for this animal.

### Review your answers

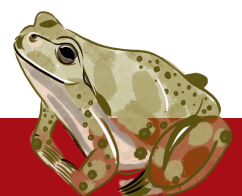
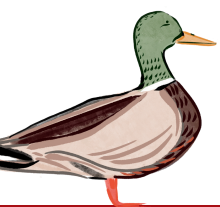
Once you've paired up all the species cards with a description check the solution to see how many you got right.

Take some time to think about how other species not included in this exercise might be impacted by beavers and what other animals might be considered a 'keystone species' and why.

### Have fun!

Remember the object of this exercise is to have fun learning about beavers and keystone species!

**Don't forget to send us a photo of you and your family matching the cards to [info@beavertrust.org](mailto:info@beavertrust.org) or upload it to social media and tag us @beavertrust to join our colony at the lodge.**



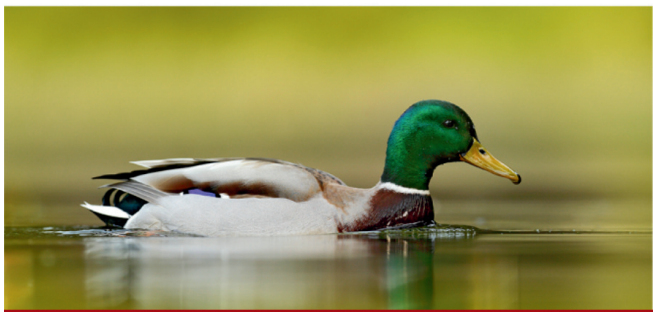
**BEAVER  
TRUST**



Pine Marten



Deer



Duck



Bat



Otter



Dragonfly



Fish



People



Toad



Water Vole

1

Beaver ponds provide a home for my prey (fish) and I can use their old lodges as a home.

6

By creating ponds beavers create more habitat that I can live in and more invertebrates that I can eat.

2

By creating areas of slow moving or standing water beavers create habitat perfect for me to live by and have my young in.

7

By creating homes for small mammals and amphibians the beavers increase the quantity of prey that I can eat.

3

By creating wetlands beavers increase the amounts of plants I can eat and burrows I can live in.

8

By creating stable wetland areas beavers increase my breeding habitat.

4

By increasing the habitat of insects beavers increase the amount of food I can catch on the wing.

9

Beaver ponds provide me with drinking water and lots of plants to eat at the waters edge.

5

Beaver dams slow the flow of water reducing the risk of my home being flooded downstream and helping me tackle drought.

10

Beaver ponds provide me with food, shelter and a perfect place for my tadpoles.

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Below are the answers - how many did you get correct?

## Answers

- 1 Otter
- 2 Dragonfly
- 3 Water Vole
- 4 Bat
- 5 People
- 6 Fish
- 7 Pine Marten
- 8 Duck
- 9 Deer
- 10 Toad

