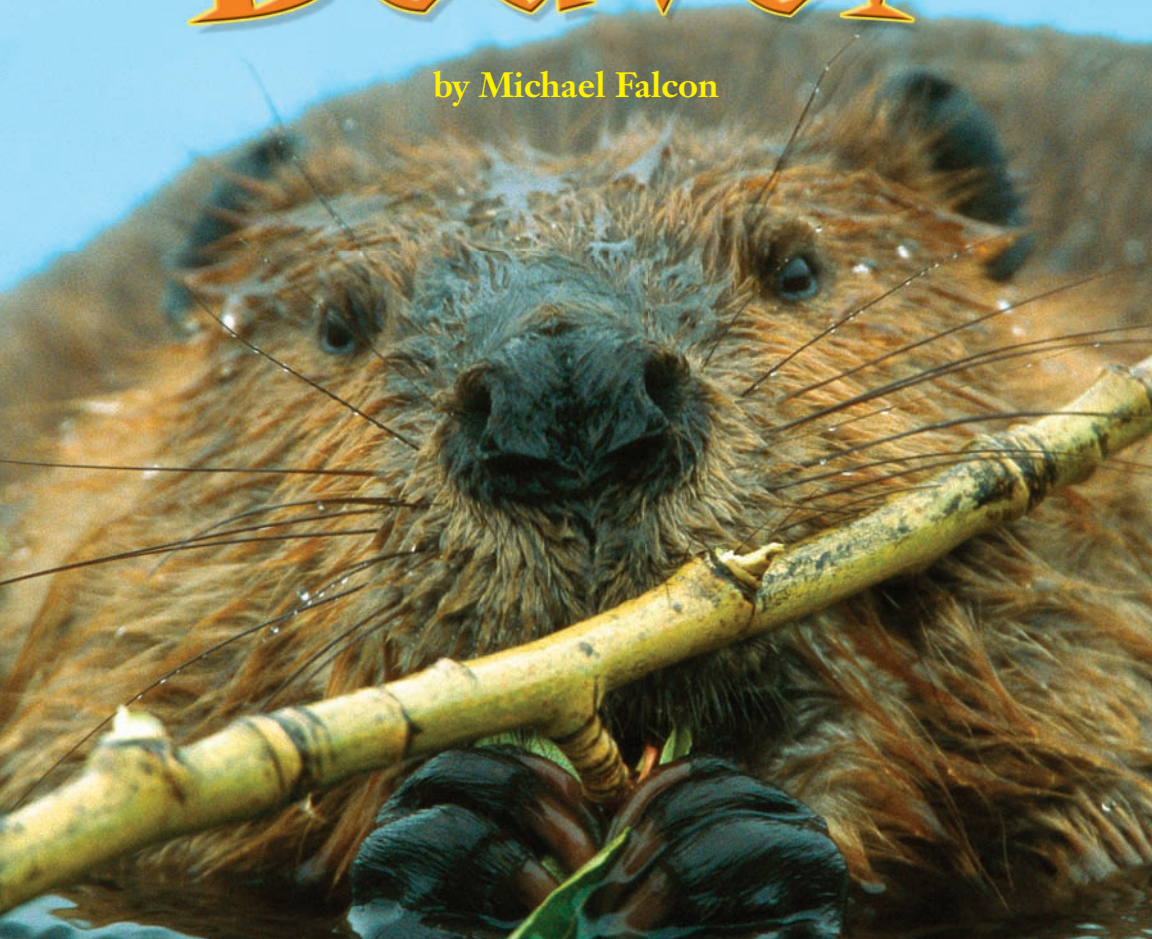




A Busy Beaver

by Michael Falcon



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

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HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT
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Beaver



- ▶ Look at this beaver.
- ▶ It is cutting a tree down with its teeth.
- ▶ It will build a dam.



- ▶ The dam will stop the water in a stream and make a pond.
- ▶ A beaver uses mud and branches to build its dam.



Swimming

- ▶ A beaver lives in a pond because the deep water keeps it safe.
- ▶ Most animals that like to eat beavers are not good swimmers.
- ▶ They can't hunt the beavers in the water.



Beaver home



- ▶ A beaver builds its home in the pond made by its dam.
- ▶ It builds a round home of mud and branches.
- ▶ A beaver has to swim under the water to get into its home.



Branch

- ▶ A beaver eats plants that grow in the pond.
- ▶ It also eats leaves and bark on the trees that grow around the pond.
- ▶ A beaver uses its sharp teeth to cut off branches.
- ▶ In the fall, it puts branches in the pond so it can eat them in the winter.



Beaver tail

- ▶ A beaver uses its tail to warn others when an enemy comes too close.
- ▶ A beaver will slap its tail on the water.
- ▶ The tail's flat **shape** makes a loud smack!
- ▶ That slap says "Danger!" to other beavers.



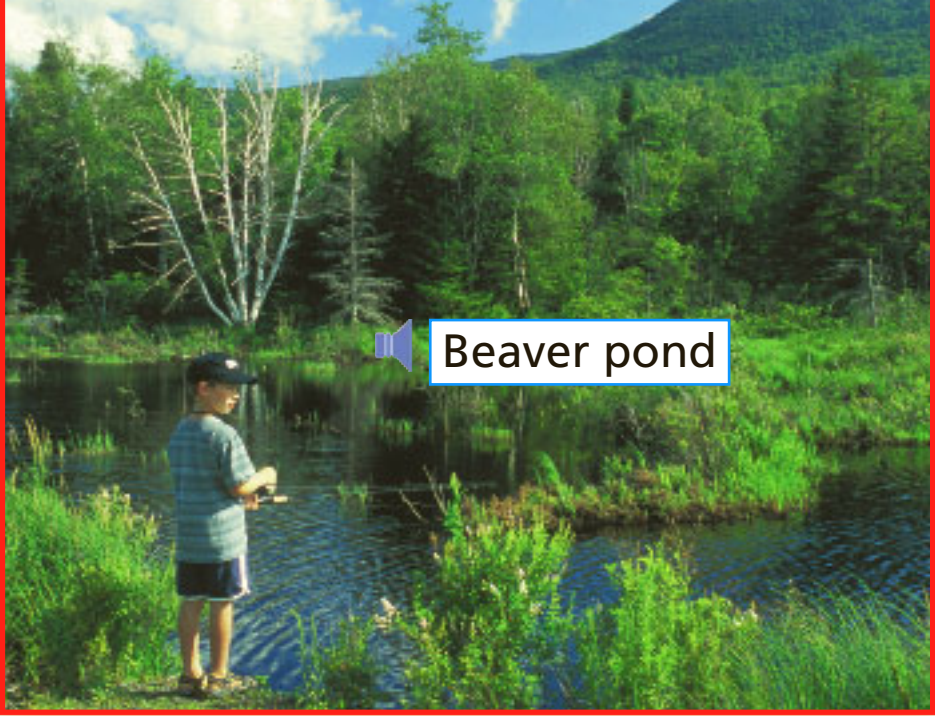
Broken dam

- ▶ Sometimes the stream will flood and **break** the beaver's dam. Then the pond disappears!
- ▶ The beaver must get to work and build its dam again.



Baby beaver

- ▶ Baby beavers are born in the pond.
- ▶ A beaver leaves the pond when it is two years old.
- ▶ Then the young beaver works hard, too!
- ▶ It builds a new dam and makes a new pond.



Beaver pond

- ▶ If you spend time at a beaver pond, you will know why a beaver is so busy.
- ▶ You will see the beaver's amazing home and dam.

Responding



TARGET SKILL **Text and Graphic**

Features What do the photos in this book show you? Look back at the pictures in the book. Copy the chart below. Fill in what you learned.

Photos	Page	What They Show
Beaver ?	2 ?	Chewing a tree ?



Write About It

Text to World Write a few sentences that summarize why beavers are so busy. Use some ideas from the chart above. Remember that a summary tells the most important ideas in just a few sentences.



TARGET VOCABULARY

beaks

branches

break

deepest

hanging

pond

shape

winding



TARGET SKILL

Text and Graphic

Features Tell how words go with photos.



TARGET STRATEGY

Question

Ask questions about what you are reading.



GENRE **Informational text** gives facts about a topic.

Level: I

DRA: 16

Genre:

Informational

Strategy:

Question

Skill:

Text and Graphic Features

Word Count: 323

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