



The Nature of the Bronx

TEACHER RESOURCE GUIDE

LITTLE STEAMers

Lesson 3: Water

3K



Nature of the Bronx

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Lesson Description

Splash! What's that sound? Learn all about beavers and their watery homes.

Age/Grade	2-3 years old; 3K
Time to complete activity	Total Time: 30-40 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Before You Play: 10 minutes</i> ● <i>Play: approx. 10 minutes</i> ● <i>After You Play: 10-20 minutes</i>
Learning Outcomes	Children will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Understand that there are many different animals in the Bronx ● Learn where beavers live or spend their time
Standards	N/A
Materials	<input type="checkbox"/> Blue paper <input type="checkbox"/> Chalk <input type="checkbox"/> Cup of water <input type="checkbox"/> Toy beaver

Tips for Success

- ❑ Prepare all the materials beforehand, and don't be afraid to substitute for what you have available.

Before You Play...

Do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Set up the classroom for the activity. You might want to add tablecloths to the workspace, or ask children to wear smocks or aprons.<input type="checkbox"/> Make sure each child has their own set of materials, or have them build collaboratively.<input type="checkbox"/> If children are participating remotely, make sure they have all the materials set up at home in advance.
Discuss	<p>Choose a few questions from the list below to ask your children. Keeping your questions open-ended will get your children speaking more and allow them to express themselves more than a simple “yes or no” question. Offer your own answer to the question as a way to model conversation!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>What animals have you seen in your neighborhood?</i>● <i>Where do these animals live?</i>● <i>How are animal homes different from human homes?</i>
Share	Read the book <i>Water</i> by Frank Asch and ask children to think about all the different forms and uses of water they see: what colors, shapes, and textures do they notice?
Extend	Show a slideshow or print different pictures of animal habitats and ask children to compare them. Put the pictures in your science center or your building center so children can use them as inspiration for their play.

After You Play...

Do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Distribute blue paper and a small cup of water to children along with several pieces of colored chalk. <input type="checkbox"/> Ask children to dip the chalk into the water and use their hands to move across the “water,” or paper, like a beaver would. Challenge them to make marks like a beaver’s tail would, or to make a splash on the paper. <input type="checkbox"/> Record their observations.
Discuss	<p>Select a few questions to ask children about their experiences creating a water drawing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>How does the beaver move through the water? (ask children to model)</i> ● <i>How do your marks look like a beaver’s movement?</i> ● <i>What other animals make their home in the water?</i>
Share	<p>Ask children to share their water drawings. What shapes and colors did they add to their drawing and why? What does their beaver do in the water?</p>
Extend	<p>Gather real natural materials such as sticks, leaves, and rocks from outside to create a beaver lodge or dam in your science center or water table.</p>

STEAM Share!

Share your class's work with BxCM! Take pictures of your children swimming like beavers or make a video of the children showing and talking about their water drawings.

Upload your photos here: www.bronxchildrensmuseum.org/artwork-upload.

For more information, contact:

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