

Building like a Beaver

Biologist Presentation/Interview

Unit Overview: Students will gather information on beaver ecology and apply this to a hands-on activity. Using the engineering and design cycle students will design, test, and redesign beaver-inspired structures and evaluate their process by reflecting in journals. Students will demonstrate their understanding through writing a persuasive letter as the culminating piece of the unit. (Unit is modifiable for distance-learning)

Rationale:

The expert interview provides a careers component to the unit as well as a local tie. The interview gives an alternative way to access information about beavers at the site. It makes beaver research personable and accessible by tying it to real people and real places. Many watershed organizations and Tribal Natural Resource Departments have a professional who can speak about beavers in your watershed. Examples: Mid-Klamath Watershed Council, Scott River Watershed Council, Smith River Alliance, Karuk Tribe.

Key info for Presenters to include:

- Who you are: profession and educational background
- Why do you want to study beavers-why are they interesting to you?
- What new/interesting observations have you made?
- What is special about beavers in your watershed?
- What services do beavers provide to the watershed? Why are they important?
- Anything else you think students should know...anything weird/cool about beavers...
- Answer student interview questions if provided by teacher