

DIY BEAVER DAM



Image Credit: National Park Service



Image Credit: Acorn Naturalists



Image Credit: Projects for your Kids



GATHER MATERIALS



Go outside and look for sticks, rocks, leaves, and anything that could make your own beaver dam! Maybe you will see a beaver yourself cutting down a tree or making its home.

Once you find all of your outdoor materials, you will need a tub/basin, tin foil, a bucket and water.



BUILD THE DAM



Image Credit: Kitchen Floor Crafts



Image Credit: Kitchen Floor Crafts



Image Credit: As They Grow Up

Take a little tub, basin, or the tin foil "river bed". To make the "river bed" take foil and create a long linear or meandering "river". Try to make it waterproof by multiple layers.

Fold the sides up that go up about 1". Set this up on a slight slope.

Start building your dam halfway or 3/4 of the way down your "river bed" or container. The best way to build a dam is by using a combination of rocks, sticks, mud, sand and leaves. You can experiment with different combinations. Filling cracks between the rocks and sticks with mud, leaves and sand fills them blocking water from quickly moving through. When you feel it is good enough for a mini beaver to live in, it's time to move on to the next step!

TEST THE DAM



Image Credit: Kitchen Floor Crafts



Image Credit: Projects for your Kids

It's time to test your DIY Beaver Dam! Fill your bucket with water. Make sure the "river bed" is resting on a slight slope and your dam is towards the middle or furthest away from where you are at the top with the water. Start slowly pouring water into the "river". Watch how the water moves. Once it gets to the dam is it going to the other side at the same speed? Is it getting to the other side at all? Is there more water on one side of the dam than the other? If so, it has worked! You have built a successful dam! The beavers would be proud! Hope you had fun and enhanced your building skills!

RESOURCES



Image Credit: National Park Service

<http://kitchenfloorcrafts.blogspot.com/2015/05/invitation-to-build-create-dam.html>

<https://www.nps.gov/teachers/classrooms/beaver-succession-mural.htm>

<https://astheygrowup.com/beavers-unit-study/>

<http://funprojectsforyourkids.blogspot.com/2015/06/beaver-dam-sensory-bin.html>

