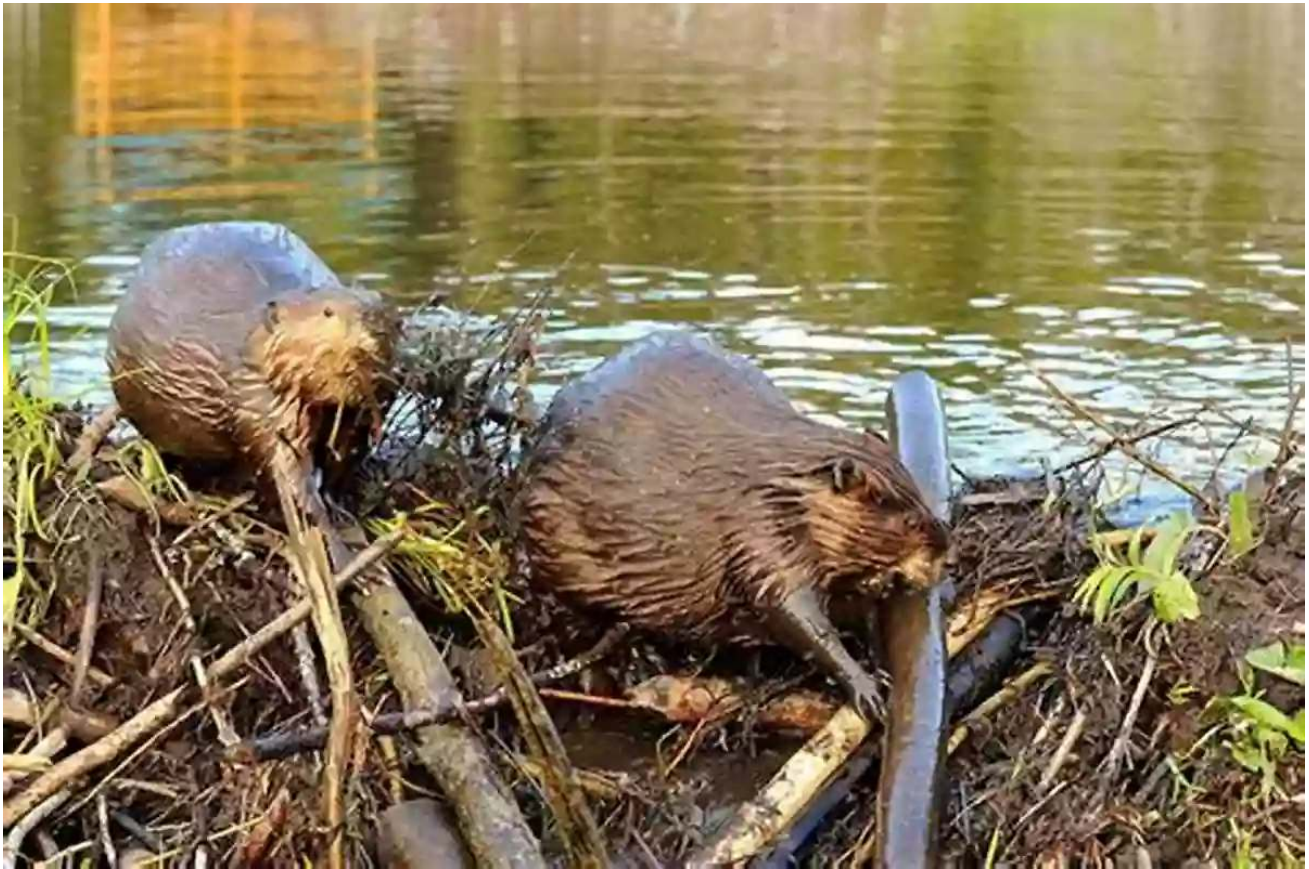


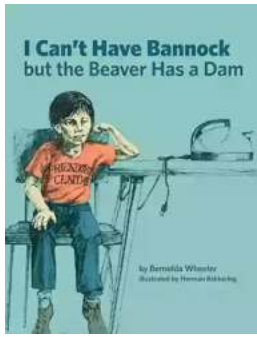
# Can Have Bannock But The Beaver Has Dam



Canada is known for its diverse wildlife and breathtaking landscapes. Among the numerous fascinating creatures that call this country home, the beaver holds a special place in the hearts of Canadians. From its industrious nature to its iconic dams, the beaver has become a symbol of Canadian resilience and resourcefulness.

## **The Mighty Beaver – A Master Builder**

The beaver's ability to construct dams is nothing short of extraordinary. These structures, made primarily from wood, serve multiple purposes for these aquatic mammals. Not only do the dams create a safe habitat for beavers and protect them from predators, but they also help control water levels in their surroundings.



## I Can't Have Bannock but the Beaver Has a Dam

by Bernelda Wheeler (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 39918 KB

Print length : 30 pages



# BEAVERS

These overgrown rodents are extraordinary engineers: Beavers alter their environment for protection and comfort like few other species in the entire world. The "busy beaver" is often synonymous with industriousness and is also the national animal of Canada. Let's hear it for beavers!

Kingdom: **Animalia**  
 Phylum: **Chordata**  
 Class: **Mammalia**  
 Order: **Rodentia**  
 Family: **Castoridae**  
 Genus: **Castor**

## WHERE DO THE BEAVERS LIVE?

● NORTH AMERICAN BEAVERS ● EURASIAN BEAVERS

North American beavers live in Canada, large portions of the United States & Northern Mexico.  
 Eurasian beavers can be found in Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, Slovakia and parts of Scandinavia.

## THE VEGETARIAN LIFESTYLE

Beavers are herbivores and enjoy leaves, twigs, bark and aquatic vegetation.

## GO SPEED RACER, GO!

Beavers can swim at speeds of up to five miles per hour and can remain underwater for 15 minutes.

## DAMS AND LODGES HOME OF THE BEAVERS

Beavers have poor eyesight, but strong senses of smell, touch and hearing & are particularly attuned to the sound of running water as an indicator of breaches in dams

Transparent eyelids aid in underwater navigation

A beaver's teeth grow continuously so they will not be worn down from regular wood-chewing

Beaver teeth enamel contains so much fortifying iron, the teeth appear orange

Beaver fur is naturally thick and oily, making it waterproof

Beavers never completely stop growing and adults can often weigh 55 pounds

Large, webbed feet and paddle-shaped tails assist in swimming

Beaver paddle-like tails can also signal danger when slapped on water surfaces

Beavers do not apply mud castings to the tops of their lodges to allow for ventilation

Lodges typically contain two "dens", one for entering and exiting & one dry-only space for long-term living

Lodges have underwater entrances that are difficult to access, but other species occasionally make their way inside

Beavers build lodges as homes for families in the centers of ponds as the ultimate safety fort

Lodges are built primarily out of trees, twigs, mud and stones

Dams create deep-water ponds which serve as protection against predators such as wolves

BEAVER PHOTO: CREDIT: Steve, Washington, D.C. / CC-BY-SA-2.0 / [www.flickr.com/photos/steve1984/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/steve1984/)

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The beaver's dam-building skills are truly remarkable. Using their sharp incisors, beavers can fell trees easily, allowing them to gather the necessary building materials for their dams. They then arrange the felled trees strategically, tightly interlocking them to form a sturdy structure capable of withstanding water pressure. These dams can be several meters high and stretch across large bodies of water.

## A Beaver's Home – The Lodge

In addition to their extraordinary dam-building skills, beavers also construct lodges as their homes. These lodges are built within the protected area of the dam, providing a safe haven for the beaver family. The lodges are accessed through underwater entrances, ensuring that predators find it challenging to infiltrate their abode.



Inside the lodge, beavers create separate chambers for different purposes. These chambers are usually located above the water level, offering a dry and comfortable living space. The central chamber is the main living area, where they rest, groom each other, and care for their young. The beavers also create food storage chambers to store branches for winter when their supply of fresh food becomes scarce.

## **The Importance of Dams**

The beaver's dam-building activities have a profound impact on their environment. These structures effectively alter the landscape, creating wetlands that act as sanctuaries for various species of plants and animals. Wetlands provide essential habitats for birds, fish, amphibians, and insects, contributing to the overall ecological balance.



The dams also help control water levels, preventing flooding during heavy rain or snowmelt. By creating a system of interconnected channels and ponds, beavers slow down the flow of water, allowing it to seep into the ground gradually. This natural filtration process helps recharge groundwater supplies and improves water quality.

## **Conservation Efforts for Beavers**

While beavers are an integral part of Canada's natural heritage, their populations have faced significant challenges. The unregulated fur trade, habitat destruction, and pollution have all contributed to declining beaver populations over the years. However, conservation efforts have been successful in preserving these remarkable creatures and their essential role in the ecosystem.

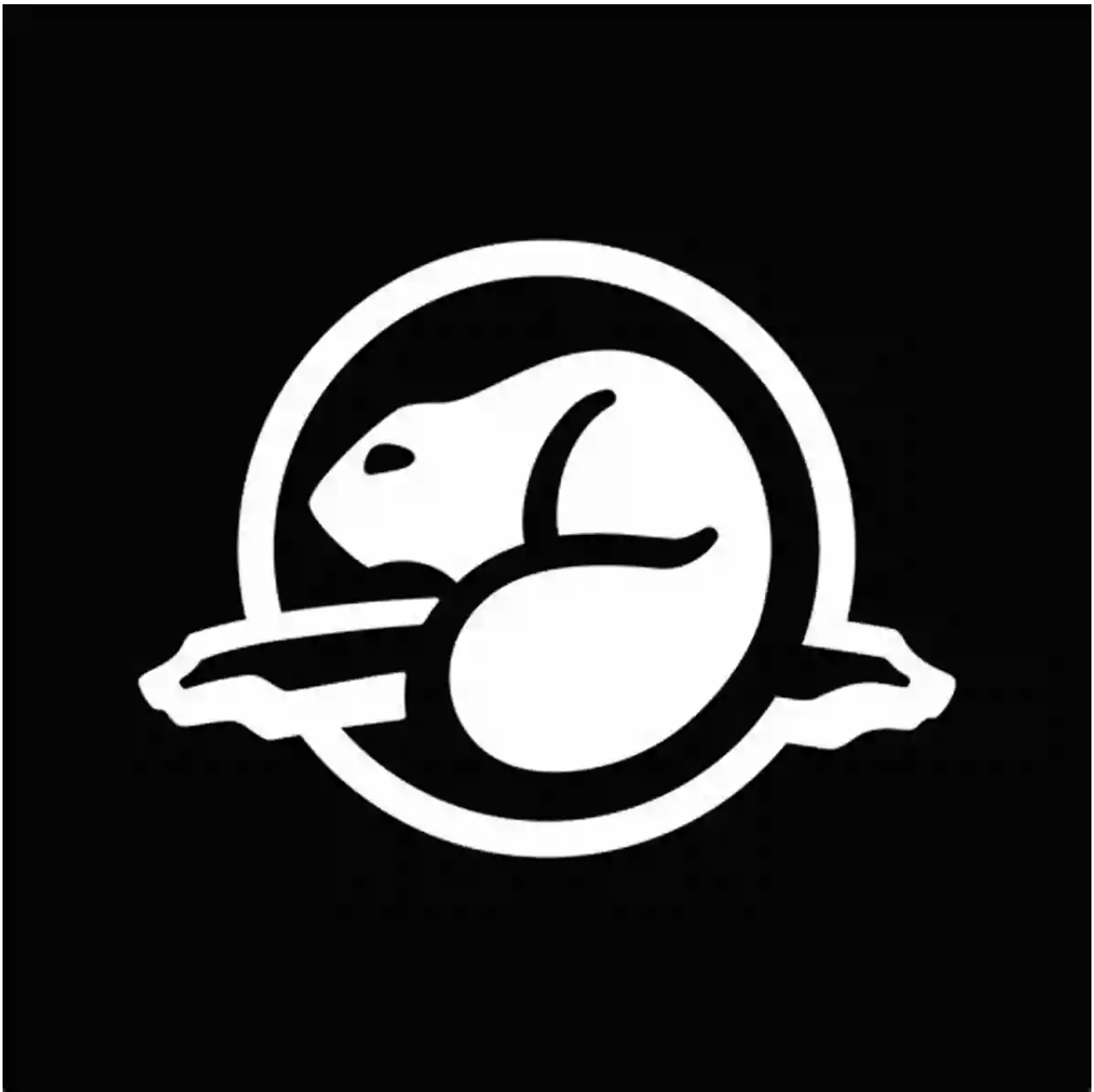


Conservation organizations and wildlife authorities have implemented measures to protect beaver habitats and promote their conservation. These efforts involve creating protected areas, educating the public about the importance of beavers, and enforcing regulations on hunting and trapping.

### **The Symbolic Meaning of the Beaver**

Symbolically, the beaver embodies the spirit of hard work, determination, and adaptability. Its ability to transform the environment to suit its needs has made it a

prominent symbol in Canadian culture. The beaver is featured on the Canadian nickel, and its image is associated with Canada at international events.

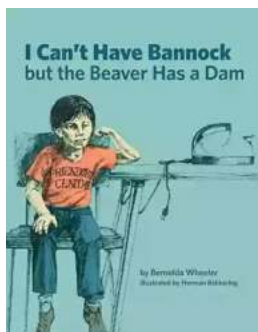


Moreover, the beaver's contribution to Canada's early history cannot be overstated. The fur trade, primarily driven by beaver pelts, played a crucial role in the exploration and colonization of Canada. The beaver became a symbol of economic prosperity and resourcefulness, cementing its place in Canadian history.

## A Fascinating Coexistence

, Canada's wildlife is a source of endless fascination, and the beaver is undoubtedly one of its most captivating inhabitants. From its incredible dam-building skills to its role in shaping the environment, the beaver's significance cannot be understated. Not only does the beaver create a world for itself, but it also provides shelter and habitats for numerous other species, nurturing a delicate ecosystem that supports life in various forms.

As Canadians continue to appreciate the remarkable beaver, it is crucial to ensure its long-term survival. By protecting their habitats and acknowledging their importance, we can guarantee that future generations will also embrace the legacy of "Can Have Bannock But The Beaver Has Dam."



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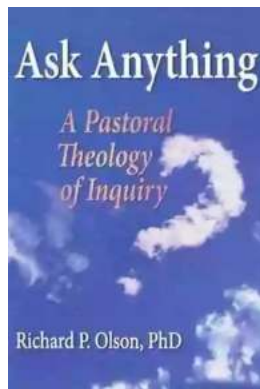


This beloved Indigenous classic begins when a little boy asks, “Mom, can I have some bannock?” Despite having all the ingredients, Mom can’t make bannock.

As the little boy asks “why,” beginning readers learn about the connections between living things in an ecosystem through the ripple effects of a beaver building a dam.

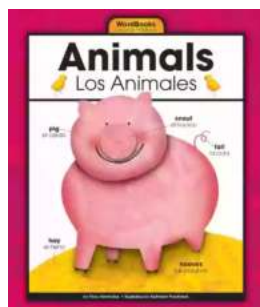


Children will be eager to chime in as Mom answers the little boy's questions about the power outage in their community and how it impacts his family. Enjoy Mom's bannock with your young reader using the recipe in the back of the book.



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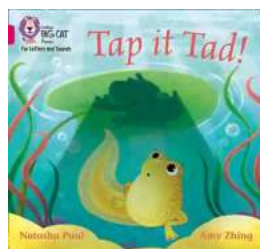
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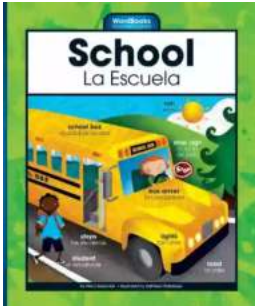
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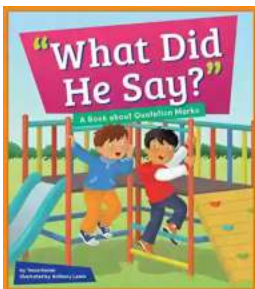
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