1. What is the topic of this text?

2. What “markers” that make you understand the text? (pay attention to the word class used, sentence function, conjunction, and other grammatical markers).

3. What is the purpose of the text? How do you know it?

Working in colonies, beavers perform extraordinary engineering feats. They cut large quantities of timber for their construction projects and for the green bark they eat. They build canals on which to transport the wood. They build complex houses of various designs and erect ambitious dams to keep the water level high enough so that marauders cannot find their dwellings. One other type of beaver house is burrowed into the bank of a pond, with the entrance underwater and the living quarters above water. Another type is constructed in the pond itself and looks like a brush pile. A third variety is built as a part of a dam.

Text taken from Schwartz, *How to Fly a Kite, Catch a Fish, Grow a Flower* in Bloor and Bloor, 2004: 6.

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