Below are 10 words to find that relate to our favourite rodent. After you’ve found each word, find out why it’s important in the answers.

biodiversity  herbivore  keystone  engineer
wetland  beaver  rodent  lodge
dam  kit
Below is where you can find each of the 10 words. Take a look at the next page to find out how each word relates to our beavers.

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Biodiversity: Biodiversity represents the variety of all life on Earth. Beavers increase biodiversity by creating wetlands across Britain which many different types of plants, fish, mammals, insects and birds can live in.

Herbivore: Beavers are herbivores meaning they only eat plants. In winter they mostly eat the bark off of trees. In summer they mainly eat the vegetation which grows around their wetland home.

Keystone: Beavers are a keystone species. Keystone species have a big impact on the area they live and provide opportunities for other species. Without keystone species other species may no longer have an area to live in.

Engineer: Beavers are ecosystem engineers. They build dams and lodges using trees, mud and even rocks!

Wetland: Wetlands along with rivers are where beavers live. If they move into a stream that is too shallow they will build dams on it to raise the water so they can live there, creating a wetland.

Beaver: Beavers were hunted to extinction in Britain 400 years ago. But, thanks to conservation efforts they have been reintroduced into our rivers and wetlands.

Rodent: Like mice and squirrels, beavers are rodents. They are the second largest rodent in the world. Only second to the capybara which lives in South America.

Lodge: Lodges are where beavers live. They are homes built out of sticks, mud and rocks which provide beavers with a warm, safe place to sleep and raise their kits.

Dam: Beavers build dams out of trees, mud and rocks. These dams hold back water creating wetlands which benefit many other species as well as us humans.

Kit: Kits are the name given to baby beavers. Two to three kits are born inside the family lodge usually between April and June every year.