

Beavers—Built for Building

If you had to spend all night gnawing on tree trunks, your teeth would be in shambles before long. They're not designed to hold up under that kind of abuse—which is fine, because no one needs that much fiber.

Beavers are a different story. God designed their teeth to be the perfect instruments for carving through lumber. Beaver teeth are constantly growing, just like the hair on your head. This keeps them from being reduced to useless nubs.

But that's not all—their incisor teeth are extra strong. The enamel on the front of their teeth is infused with iron, so while the beaver chews, the softer back part of the incisor wears away first and sharpens the leading edge like a chisel.

But God gave beavers more than just the perfect hardware for the job; He also gave them an instinct for engineering. By making the right cuts in the right places, beavers prepare trees to fall precisely where they want them—into the water where they can be easily added to a growing dam or lodge.

The dams themselves are nothing to sneeze at either. The longest known beaver dam is twice the length of the man-made Hoover Dam—and visible from space!

Pictured: North American beaver (Castor canadensis)

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