

BENNY THE BEAVER

THE NAME OF THE LORD IS A STRONG TOWER; THE RIGHTEOUS RUN TO IT AND ARE SAFE. PROVERBS 18:10

Beavers are water-loving mammals with thick waterproof fur, a large flat tail, webbed feet, and two large front teeth.

Did you know that Benny and his beaver friends are rodents? Rodents are gnawing mammals that are well known for their strong, constantly growing incisors with an absence of canine teeth. Benny has no need for a chainsaw, as he uses his big front teeth to fell a tree. If Benny's log is too large for him to drag to the construction site, he will float it in the water—nudging it here and there—guiding it along its way.

The beaver's tail isn't just for looks. When danger is lurking near Benny's home, he will slap the water with his tail in order to scare the predator away from his home.

Benny's love for swimming is aided by his webbed feet. He also uses his large flat tail as a rudder—a flat object used for steering—when he swims.

Because Benny has short legs, he uses his tail kind of like a bicycle kickstand to prop himself up while he cuts the tree down with his teeth.

Benny works up quite an appetite working as a lumberjack. Benny not only cuts trees down to build his lodge, but he also eats them! As a vegetarian, Benny's diet is made up of leaves, roots, and the bark of some of his favorite trees such as aspen, maple, willow, and poplar. He also enjoys feasting on aquatic plants—plants that grow in and near water.

Benny's home is called a lodge—a dome-shaped home made by weaving sticks, grass, and moss, then plastered with mud to keep the water out. Benny's lodge can be up to 8 feet (2.4 m) wide and as high as 3 feet (1 m) on the inside. Benny also builds a dam in the same way to create a pond for his enjoyment.

Bonny—Benny's mate—will deliver from 1 to 6 babies called "kits," weighing between 9 to 21 ounces (250-600 g) at birth. Kits are in the water swimming just 24 hours after they are born.

