THE DAY
FIND YOUR VOICE

NEWS DETECTIVES

Cutest baby boom is technically illegal

KEYWORDS

- **Government:** The people who govern (lead) a country
- **Kits:** Baby beavers
- **Nature reserves:** Where plants and animals are protected
- **Extinction:** When an animal species disappears

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BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Beavers are an animal known for their ability to cut wood with just their teeth! Beavers disappeared from Britain hundreds of years ago, but in recent years, they have begun to reappear in nature reserves and in the wild. Some farmers are not too happy.

Wildlife charities want the UK **government** to publish plans for beavers to be released into rivers across England and Wales.

Baby beavers

This summer, there has been an increase in sightings of baby beavers, which are known as **kits**. Kits have been seen swimming in rivers in the wild and there has been a rise in kit births at **nature reserves**. It's a beaver baby boom!

Benefits of beavers

Scientists argue that beavers have many benefits for nature. They could improve water quality, reduce flooding, and help other wildlife.

Rob Stoneman, from the Wildlife Trusts charity, says that "nature needs beavers".

But beavers were hunted to **extinction** in Britain hundreds of years ago.

Bringing beavers back

At the moment, it is not legal to release beavers into the **wild** in England and Wales, but experts think that there are hundreds of wild beavers living in English rivers. Nobody knows quite how they got there!

The government started the process of making it legal to release beavers in 2022, but it has not yet published a plan to make this happen.

Some farmers do not support bringing beavers back. The argue that beavers would damage their plants.

INVESTIGATION OF THE DAY

WHAT is a kit?

WHO supports bringing beavers back?

WHERE have beavers been seen this summer?

WHEN did beavers disappear from Britain?

WHY do some farmers not support bringing beavers back?

HOW could beavers help nature?

1 TAKE ACTION

Did you know that there has been a fall in the number of hedgehogs in the UK??

Help hedgehogs find a place to nest or hibernate by creating a pile of leaves in a corner of your garden, and leave out a tray of water so that they have something to drink.

2 SHARE YOUR IDEAS

What have you found out in your investigation? Write, present or even record a piece that talks about what other animals could be brought back in Britain! Share what you've learned with your family and friends. What do they think? We want to hear your ideas too! Your teacher can share your reports with us too by sending them to editorial@theday.co.uk.

3 Build THE Change

Deadline extended!

LEGO

COMPETITION TIME!

Because of traffic and poor town planning, 60% of 4 to 11 year olds never play outside on their own street. But research tells us that playing outside and connecting with nature is good for people and the planet. One brilliant solution is to set up your own Play Street that's designed for people and nature to thrive! Visit www.playingout.net then enter our design competition!

STEP 1: Reimagine a street near you as a wild and playful street, one where young people can safely play outside and interact with nature.

STEP 2: Share your vision with us by creating a drawing or a 3D model made from LEGO, craft bits, natural materials or recycled rubbish. Don't forget to explain your awesome ideas and take a photo of your build.

STEP 3: Write a letter persuading the adults around you to set up a wild play street in your community so that local people, wildlife, and our amazing planet can all thrive. Read to them and then send it to us, along with your designs or photos to be in with a shot of winning!

Enter the competition to win prizes!

Visit **www.theday.co.uk/build-the-change-planet-play/** to find out how to enter the competition.