

The New Lodge

the story of a beaver and his lodge



Benny and Barney Beaver were building their beaver lodges.

They both took two completely different strategies in construction.

So... who was right?

The New Lodge

short story.

Benny Beaver and his friend, Barney, were making new lodges for their families. Being smart beavers, they made their plans and then went to cut down trees for their building materials.

Benny found a great group of young, tender trees in a nearby grove. He got started and quickly had enough wood for his lodge. So he went to find Barney to see how he was faring with his project. He found Barney gnawing on a giant old tree.

"You'll never get through that trunk," said Benny. "Come get some from my grove. They're young and tender."

"No thanks," replied Barney. "I think I'll just keep gnawing on this old tree."

"Suit yourself, Barney." Benny went back to building his new lodge.

The next day, Benny's lodge was nearly complete, while Barney had hardly made a dent in his old tree.

Benny said, *"Sure you don't want to join me over here?"*

"No thanks," said Barney.

Day after day Benny would ask Barney if he didn't want to try a different tree. Barney would politely decline.

Finally the big day came. Little by little – inch by inch – he had chewed through that big old tree. Barney built his new lodge with the wood from that tree and it was magnificent – the biggest, strongest lodge that anyone in the beaver colony had ever seen!

Soon after, the spring floods arrived, and it was Barney's lodge that saved them all! They took shelter from the churning floodwaters in Barney's strong haven. When the storms were over, Barney's lodge was the only one still there.

While Benny and the other beavers worked on rebuilding their lodges, Barney basked in the warm sunshine, enjoying the glowing accolades of his friends.



MORAL: Persistence pays off.

The New Lodge

personal reflection.

Even though it was a slow, tedious process, Barney knew that, if he just stuck to his plan, he would achieve his goal. If he simply chipped away at that old tree, it would eventually come down.

And he was right!

Many of our goals are the same way. If your trek toward your goal is a long one, it's so easy to be swayed by temptations to take an easier route or give up altogether.

Persistence is the key to your success!
With vigorous persistence, you can make small progress toward your goal until you ultimately achieve it.

Sometimes you'll hit challenges on your route to success and some days it may seem as if you make no progress at all. But when you keep chipping away at it,

like Barney did, you'll find a way to continue moving forward.

With your long-term goals, a good way to develop persistence – and avoid the temptation to give up – is to ***break your goal down into smaller, easily achievable mini-goals.***

For example, Barney may have made smaller goals of only an inch or two each day. Then, at the end of each day, he could feel good about achieving that inch or two, since he accomplished his daily goal.

Accomplishing your short-term goals builds momentum and confidence.

Over time, you'll soon see your persistence paying off – so bask in the glory of your success!

Self-Reflection Questions:

- What are my long-term goals?
- How can I break them down into a series of short-term goals?
- What are some ways I can strengthen my persistence to keep moving forward?