

Compare & Contrast

The ability to compare and contrast is one of the most fundamental thinking skills of the scientist. In this activity, students develop this capacity as they compare and contrast scientific concepts with regard to specific characteristics. Students use this exercise as the basis for a compare and contrast paper.

ACTIVITY
12

at-a-glance

Cooperative Structure

- Pair Project

Level of Thinking

- Analysis

Multiple Intelligences

- Verbal/Linguistic
- Visual/Spatial
- Interpersonal

Ideas for my class...

Compare and Contrast:

- Weight/mass
- Kinetic/potential energy
- Water cycle/oxygen cycle
- Plants/animals
- Cells/organs
- Photosynthesis/metabolism
- Igneous/sedimentary rocks
- Liquids/gases

More ideas for my class...

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Pair Project

The secret of a successful compare-and-contrast essay is to write about selected features of the two subjects. For example, a student might compare and contrast animals and plants. A well-organized essay would look at the specific features of animals and compare and contrast them to the corresponding feature of plants like reproduction, movement, food sources. (See graphic).

Give students the topics to compare and contrast. Using the Compare & Contrast reproducible have students work in pairs to come up with how the two objects are similar and how they are different with respect to specific characteristics.

Independent Write

Students can turn their graphic organizer into an interesting paper. Have them begin with an introduction, write a paragraph detailing the likenesses and differences in each of the items compared on the graphic, and finish with a brief summary.

Compare & Contrast 

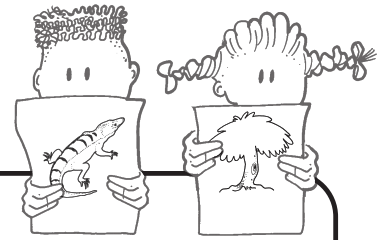
Name _____ Date _____

Directions: Write the name of the two things you will compare and contrast in the boxes below. Work with a partner to compare and contrast the two items, with regard to three specific characteristics. Write these characteristics in the arrows below. This sheet will be the basis of your compare and contrast essay.

Plants	Animals
← reproduction →	
← movement →	
← food sources →	

Write your compare and contrast paper on another sheet.

Compare & Contrast



Name _____ Date _____

Directions: Write the name of the two things you will compare and contrast in the boxes below. Work with a partner to compare and contrast the two items, with regards to three specific characteristics. Write these three characteristics in the arrows below. This sheet will be the basis of your compare-and-contrast essay.

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Write your compare-and-contrast essay on another sheet.