COMPARE & CONTRAST

Understanding informational text | Student organiser | Venn diagram

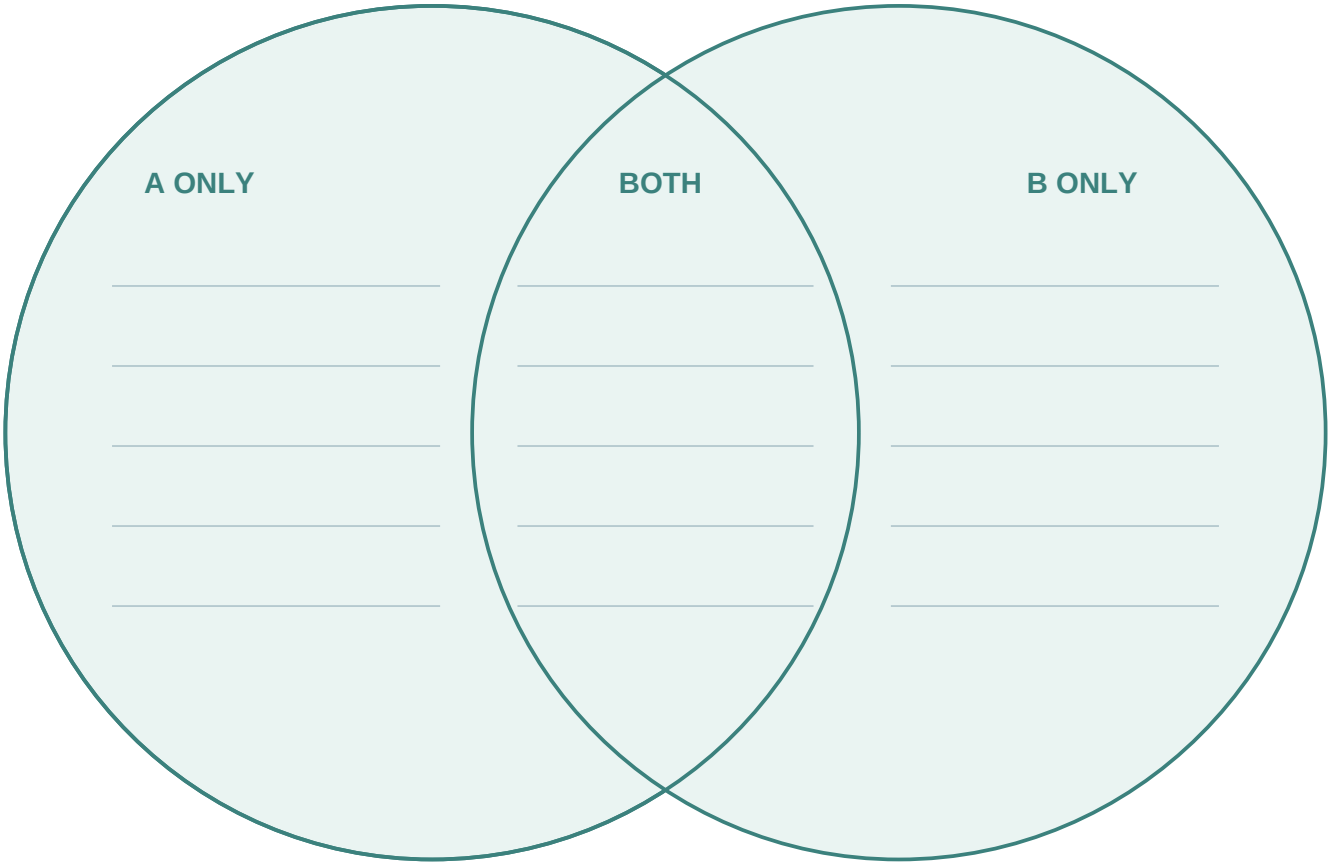
Name: _____ Date: _____ Years 3–8

TOPIC / BIG QUESTION

SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

Write shared features in the middle. Write features that are different on either side.

Subject A: _____ **Subject B:** _____



EXPLAIN YOUR THINKING

Say one similarity and one difference aloud. Then write your sentences.

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COMPARE & CONTRAST

Understanding informational text | Student organiser | Comparison table

Name: _____ Date: _____ Years 3–8

TOPIC / BIG QUESTION

COMPARE THE SAME FEATURES

Choose five features. Record information about each subject in the same row.

FEATURE	SUBJECT A: _____	SUBJECT B: _____
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

EXPLAIN YOUR THINKING

Use your table to explain one similarity and one difference.

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COMPARE & CONTRAST

African lions and polar bears | Worked classroom example

Years 3–8

READ AND DISCUSS

AFRICAN LION

African lions are carnivorous mammals that live in savannas, grasslands and open woodlands. They have short, tawny fur and feed mainly on large land animals, such as zebras and antelopes. Lions live in groups called prides.

Carnivorous: feeding mainly or entirely on other animals.

POLAR BEAR

Polar bears are carnivorous mammals that live in Arctic regions, where they hunt mainly on sea ice. Their thick, whitish fur and layer of fat help keep them warm. They feed mainly on seals and usually live alone.

COMPLETED COMPARISON TABLE

How are the two predators similar and different?

FEATURE	AFRICAN LION	POLAR BEAR
Habitat	Savannas, grasslands and open woodlands	Arctic regions, especially sea ice
Diet	Mainly large land animals	Mainly seals
Appearance	Short, tawny fur	Thick, whitish fur
Social behaviour	Lives in prides	Usually lives alone
Classification	Carnivorous mammal	Carnivorous mammal

EXPLAIN YOUR THINKING

Both animals are mammals and predators. Lions live in groups called prides, whereas polar bears usually live alone.

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SENTENCE WRITING

From organiser to connected sentences | Student worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____ Years 3–8

PART A • COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Use the information on page 3. Say each sentence aloud before writing.

1. Both lions and polar bears

2. Lions live in grasslands, but

3. Lions feed mainly on land animals, whereas

4. Unlike lions, polar bears

5. Polar bears can stay warm in the Arctic because

PART B • COMBINE THE SENTENCES

Join each pair into one sentence using the word in brackets.

6. Lions are mammals. Polar bears are mammals. (both)

7. Lions live in prides. Polar bears usually live alone. (whereas)

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PARAGRAPH WRITING

Modelled comparison and independent practice | Teacher and student

Name: _____ Date: _____ Years 3–8

MODEL PARAGRAPH

Read aloud and draw attention to the words that connect ideas.

Both lions and polar bears are carnivorous mammals, **but** they live in very different environments. Lions live in grasslands and savannas, **whereas** polar bears hunt on Arctic sea ice. **Unlike** lions, which live in prides, polar bears usually live alone. Polar bears have thicker fur than lions, which helps them survive in the Arctic **because** it provides insulation against the cold.

Teacher note: Cover the model paragraph during independent writing if needed.

TEACHER GUIDE

1. **Model:** Identify a shared feature and a contrasting feature in the table.
2. **Guide:** Rehearse sentences aloud using comparison words.
3. **Apply:** Ask students to write a paragraph using at least three features.
4. **Review:** Check that comparisons are accurate and sentences are connected.

YOUR TURN

Use page 3 or a new comparison table. Write a paragraph of four or five sentences.

CHECK YOUR WRITING

Include a similarity, a difference and accurate details. Use comparison words and check that every sentence is complete.

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