

Comparing and Contrasting

Skills Reviewed and Maintained

- **Comprehension**
Cause and effect
Drawing Conclusions
- **Writing**
Compare and contrast

Teach

- Display a photo of a tiger, lion, or other wild cat and a house cat. Invite students to look for similarities and differences between the animals.
- Distribute the graphic organizer on page 96. Have students label one wild cat and the other a house cat.
- Have students brainstorm words and phrases that describe traits unique to the tiger. Students should write these in the first circle.
- Then brainstorm traits unique to the house cat. Have students write responses in the second circle.
- Finally brainstorm traits common to both cats. Have students write these in the middle section.
- Work with the class to write sentences comparing and contrasting the traits they listed. Encourage students to use the clue words and phrases such as both, in the same way, similar to, different to, unlike, but, etc.
- As students read the passage, ask them to look for clue words that signal comparisons or contrasts.
- As students complete the exercise, check that they correctly identify the comparisons and the contrast.

Practice

Introducing Vocabulary

- Before students read the article, introduce the vocabulary words. And discuss their meanings. Clarify meanings by giving a synonym for each word. Have students suggest others.

Reading the Passage

- Have students preview the title and illustrations. What two things do they expect the article to compare? Review clue words that signal similarities and differences.

Checking Comprehension

- When looking for causes and effects, encourage students to ask themselves what happened and why it happened.
- To help students draw conclusions about the relationship between building materials and environment, have them circle article details.

Practicing Comprehension Skills

- Encourage students to compare what they read to what they already know. They should ask themselves, “what does this (idea, selection, event) remind me of”.

Practicing Vocabulary

- Ask students to identify the two words with the vowels ie (pieces, yielded).
- Have students complete the vocabulary exercise independently. Go over the answers as a class.

Apply

Making the Reading and Writing Connection

- Have partners read each other’s paragraphs. Then have them make a chart of the likenesses and differences.

ESL Strategy

- Have students acquiring English work with more proficient students to sketch a visual comparison of a tipi and longhouse, using information from the article as a guide.

Multiple Intelligences: Verbal–Linguistic, Interpersonal

- Have students find pictures of two dwelling that they think are interesting. Have them write sentences presenting similarities and differences between the two, using clue words and phrases.

Home- School Connection

- Students can talk with a family member about how two homes the family has lived in were alike and different. Instruct students to write a compare and contrast paragraph.

