

Lesson 20

Comparing and Contrasting Two Texts



Learning Target



Comparing and contrasting the most important points in two texts on the same topic will help you learn more about the topic.

- ▶ **Read** When you **compare** texts, you tell how they are alike. When you **contrast** texts, you tell how they are different. Comparing and contrasting the most **important points** in two texts on the same topic helps you learn more about the topic.

Look at these two posters. How are they alike? How are they different?

Poster 1



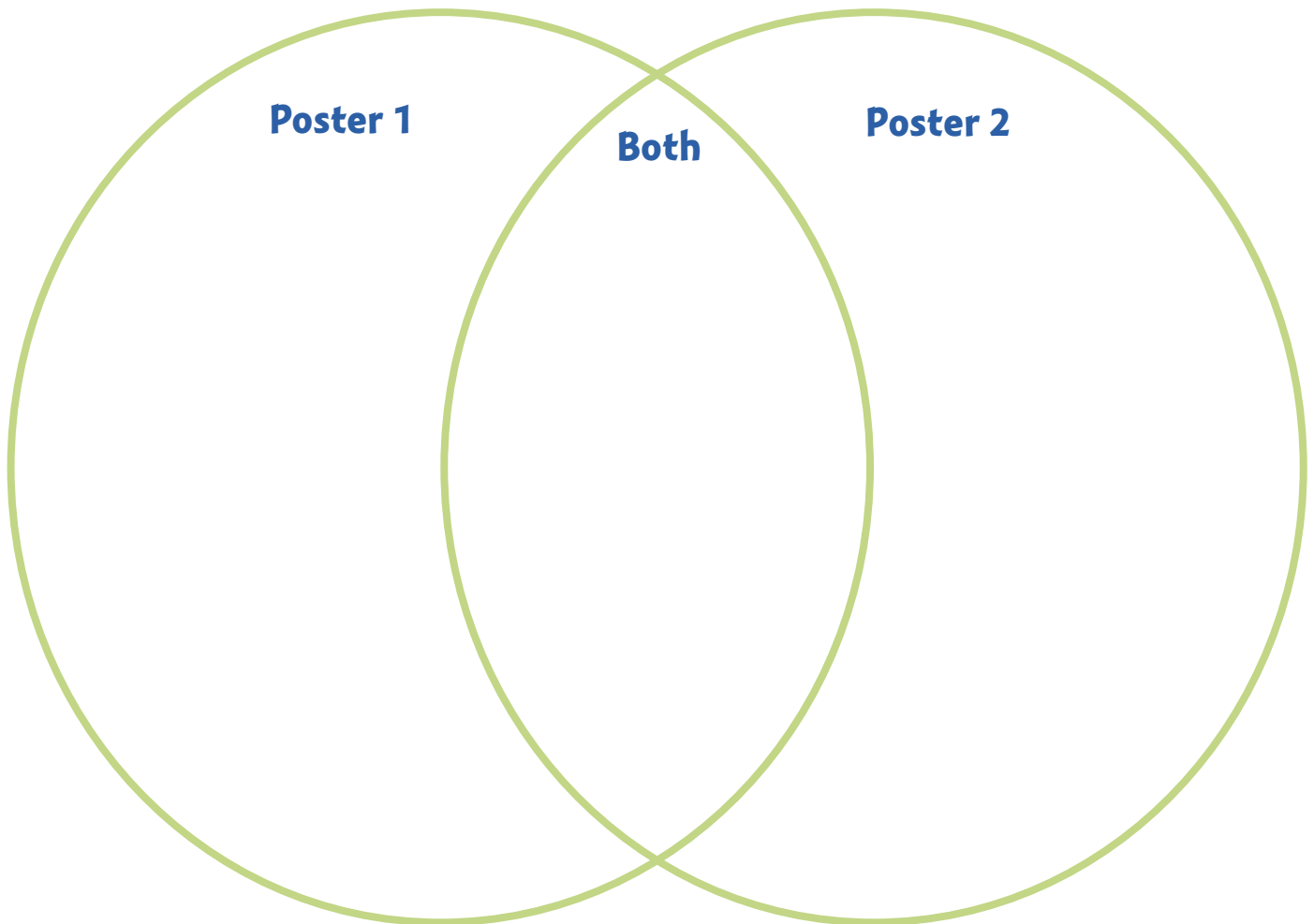
Take care of planet Earth.
Plant a tree!

Poster 2



Take care of planet Earth.
The animals will thank you!

► **Think** Look again at the posters. Use the *Venn diagram* below to compare and contrast the important points in each poster.



► **Talk** What do you learn about the topic of taking care of planet Earth from comparing and contrasting the posters?



Academic Talk

Use these words and phrase to talk about the text.

- **compare**
- **contrast**
- **important points**

Don't FEED the Animals!

by Marvin Reinhart

1 Have you ever seen a chipmunk begging for food from a person? Many people might want to give the chipmunk a piece of their snack. But please don't! If we want to have healthy wild animals, then we can't give animals people food.

2 People food can make wild animals sick. It also teaches them to need people to live. Instead of finding their own food, the animals learn to beg. When people aren't around, the animals don't know what to do. They forget how to live off the land around them.



Our Animal Friends

by Jerry Lemto

1 We need to take care of our animals. One way to keep animals safe is not to feed them. Feeding them makes them come back for more. It keeps them from finding their own food.

2 Another way to keep our animals safe is to be careful when driving. Many animals are killed each year by people driving too fast.

Close Reader Habits

Underline a sentence in each passage that tells an important point.

Explore

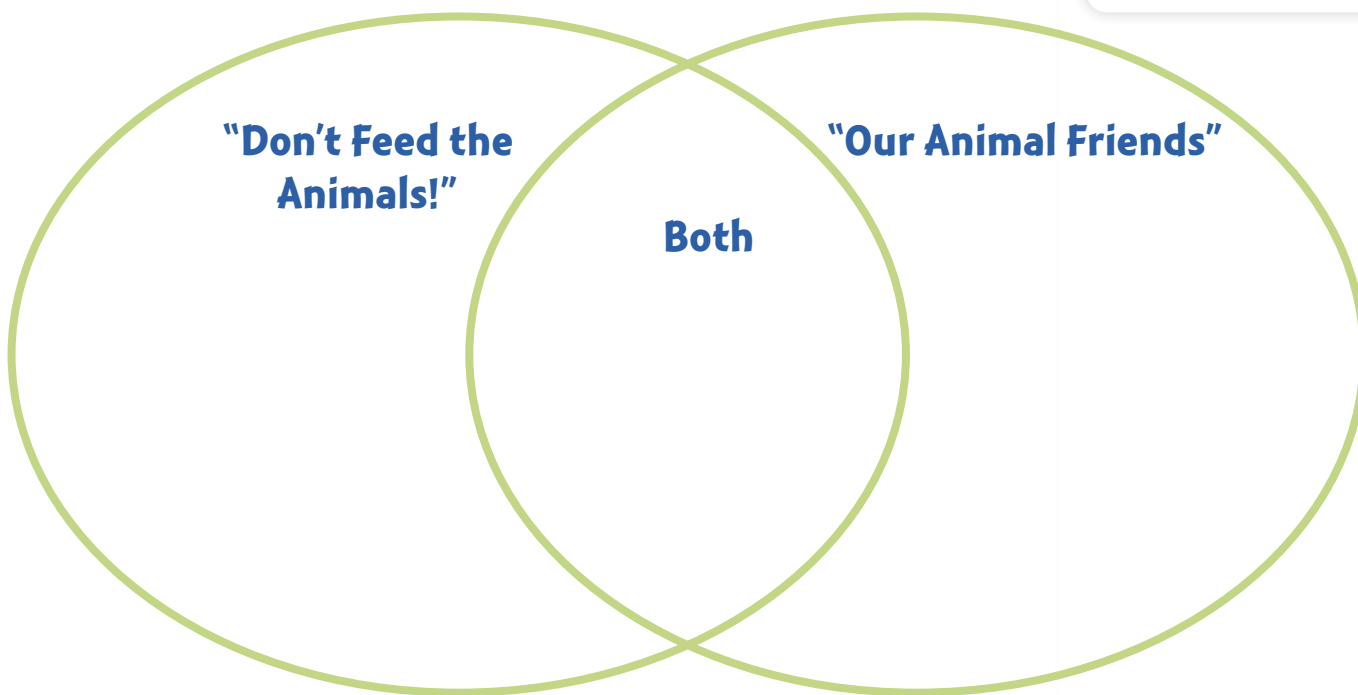
How do you compare and contrast the most important points in two texts on the same topic?



Both articles are about animals. I will think about how they are alike and how they are different.

Think

- 1 Use the Venn diagram below to compare and contrast the most important points in the passages.



Talk

- 2 What are the most important points in each passage? Use the information in the Venn diagram to talk about which points are the same in both passages and which are different.

Write

- 3 **Short Response** What is an important point in “Our Animal Friends” that is not in “Don’t Feed the Animals!”? Write your answer in the space on page 332.

HINT Look back at the sentences you underlined in both passages.



TURN On the TAP

BY MARISA WOLLCOT

1 Turn on the tap, and out pours fresh, clean water. But where does it come from? In many places, water is pumped from lakes and rivers or from under the ground to wells or to treatment plants. There, it is cleaned to make it safe to drink. Then pipes carry clean water into our homes.

2 Water is important to people—we need it to live! To stay healthy, we drink it every day. We also use it to get clean and to wash away germs. We think there will always be plenty of water when we need it, but that may not be true.

3 In the past, people wasted water. Water was polluted with harmful things, such as garbage and oil.

4 We must protect our water. To make sure we have fresh water in the future, everyone must help today. So be sure to use water wisely!



Close Reader Habits

Why does the author think water is important? **Underline** a sentence that tells why water is important.

Fresh Water

by Seamus Langworthy



- 1 Fresh water is more precious than gold. Without it, Earth wouldn't have plants, animals, or people. We should always treat water with care.
- 2 But we put harmful things into our water. Dirty water from homes and factories flows from pipes into rivers. Ships dump garbage and oil into lakes.
- 3 Cities clean this dirty water. They add things that kill the harmful germs. Now the water that comes from the tap is safe to drink.
- 4 Keeping water pure is a big job, but you can help! The less water we use, the better. Take shorter showers. Don't leave the tap running when you don't need to. Don't throw garbage into rivers or lakes. If you see garbage, throw it away. Help keep our water pure and safe for everyone to enjoy.

Close Reader Habits

What does the author think people can do to protect water?

Underline a sentence that tells something people can do to protect water.



Both articles are about water. I wonder what each author thinks about this topic.

Think

1 This question has two parts. Answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

What is the most important point in paragraph 2 of “Turn On the Tap”?

- A** People need water to live.
- B** We drink water every day.
- C** Water washes away germs.
- D** We may not always have enough water.

Part B

Write **one** sentence from paragraph 2 that supports your answer to Part A.

2 Which important point is in **both** articles?

- A** Water comes from the oceans.
- B** There will always be enough clean water.
- C** We must protect our water.
- D** Ships dump garbage into lakes.

- 3** Which important point is in “Fresh Water” but not in “Turn On the Tap”?
- A** We should use water carefully.
 - B** Water is cleaned to make it safe to drink.
 - C** People put harmful things into water.
 - D** Everyone can help keep water safe.
- 4** Circle **three** things from the list below that the author of “Fresh Water” says we can do to keep our water pure.
- A** Don’t throw garbage into rivers and lakes.
 - B** Don’t leave the tap running when you don’t need to.
 - C** Only drink water from the tap.
 - D** Close down factories that send dirty water into rivers.
 - E** Take shorter showers.

 **Talk**

- 5** What are both articles mostly about? How are they different? How are they the same? Work with your partner to fill in the Venn diagram on page 333.

 **Write**

- 6 Short Response** Use the information from your Venn diagram to describe how the two articles are alike and different. Write your answer in the space on page 333.

HINT Organize your writing to show how the articles are alike and different.



Write Use the space below to write your answer to the question on page 327.

Don't FEED the Animals!

Our Animal Friends

3 Short Response What is an important point in "Our Animal Friends" that is not in "Don't Feed the Animals!"?

HINT Look back at the sentences you underlined in both passages.



Don't forget to check your writing.

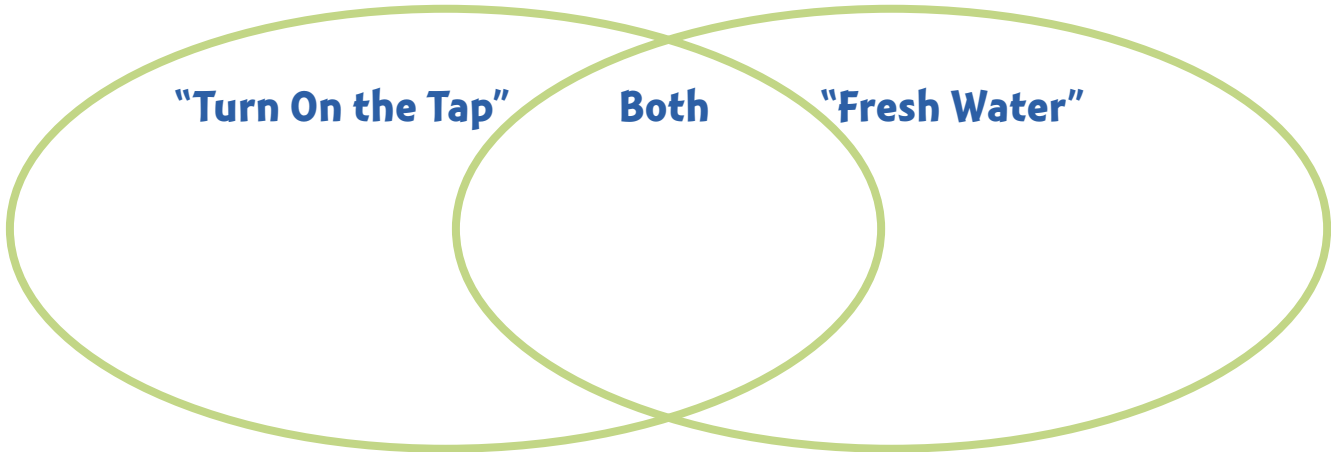
Check Your Writing

- Did you read the question carefully?
- Can you say the question in your own words?
- Did you use proof from the text in your answer?
- Are your ideas in a good, clear order?
- Did you answer in full sentences?
- Did you check your spelling, capital letters, and periods?

TURN On the TAP

Fresh Water

5 Use the Venn diagram below to organize your ideas.



Write Use the space below to write your answer to the question on page 331.

6 Short Response Use the information from your Venn diagram to describe how the two articles are alike and different.

HINT Organize your writing to show how the articles are alike and different.

WORDS TO KNOW

As you read, look inside, around, and beyond these words to figure out what they mean.

- **trash**
- **landfills**
- **recycle**



These tables and chairs are made from recycled paper.

from

Recycle That!

by Fay Robinson

- 1 Bottles, cans, mail, magazines, boxes, bags. We throw out a lot of trash! Everything we throw away came from somewhere. The paper products we use are made from trees. Thousands and thousands of trees are cut down each day to make the paper we use.
- 2 Fields and hills are dug up to get sand to make glass, and metals to make cans. The plastics we use are made with oil pumped from deep inside the earth.
- 3 Each time we take something from the earth, we change the earth. The ways we change it are not always good for us, or for wild animals.

4 And where does all our trash go? Most of it goes into land set aside just for trash. But we throw out so much trash that our landfills are filling up. Soon there won't be any more room!

5 By using and throwing away so many things, we have created a big problem. What can you do to help? Recycle!

6 When something is recycled, all or part of it is used again. Many towns and cities have special programs for recycling. Each home gets a special container for items to be recycled.

7 Often, cans, bottles, and newspapers can be recycled. In some places, magazines and plastic bottles can be recycled, too.

8 Can you see why it's smart to recycle? Things that would have been wasted can be made into something useful instead! Each time you recycle one can, bottle, or newspaper, you help the earth a little bit.

9 So recycle that! It's easy!

Elephant art made from plastic bottles!



Turning Trash into Treasure



by Ron Fridell

WORDS TO KNOW

As you read, look inside, around, and beyond these words to figure out what they mean.

- waste
- scraps
- cycle

1 When was the last time you threw away a banana peel? An apple core? A piece of paper? Maybe you could have recycled them instead.

2 When we recycle things, we turn them into new things to use again. From old newspapers, we make new paper. From old cans and empty bottles, we make new ones. Recycling can keep our landfills from getting too full. If we aren't careful, we may run out of room.

3 Composting is another way to recycle. It is a great way to turn food and yard waste into good, rich soil. The soil helps grow new things.

4 To make compost, you need fruit and vegetable scraps. You also need leaves, grass, and soil. Put all these things in a big wooden box. Then add some water and stir. Finally, cover the box.

5 After a few weeks, everything in the compost box starts to rot and break down. The tiniest living things in nature help break them down.

6 After a few more weeks, everything will have turned into rich soil. People use compost in their gardens to help plants and flowers grow.

7 Composting shows us how nature is a cycle. Things grow. Then they die. Finally, they become soil and help new things grow.

8 By recycling things we no longer need, we create new things. We also take better care of the earth.

Think Use what you learned by reading the articles to respond to the following questions.

- 1** This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

Based on both articles, which sentence about landfills is true?

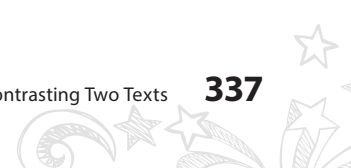
- A** Landfills are a good solution to the trash problem.
- B** Landfills will never get too full.
- C** Landfills are safe places to dispose of trash.
- D** Landfills are not the best way to get rid of trash.

Part B

Write a sentence from each article that helped you find the answer to Part A.

Sentence from "Turning Trash into Treasure"

Sentence from *Recycle That!*



2 Read these sentences from *Recycle That!*

Many towns and cities have special programs for recycling. Each home gets a special container for items to be recycled.

Which of the following means the same as “container”?

- A plan** thinking of how to do something before you do it
- B box** something that holds things inside of it
- C area** an open place or space
- D direction** something you follow or a way to go

 **Write**

Compare and contrast the most important points in the articles. What points are the same? What are two ways the information about recycling in “Turning Trash into Treasure” is different from the information in “from *Recycle That!*”?

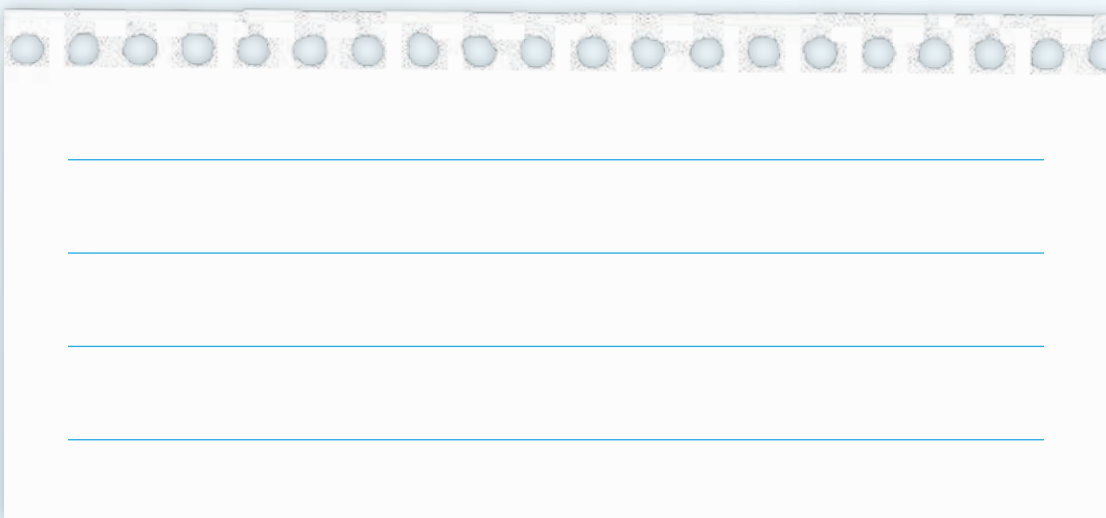
3 Plan Your Response Reread the two articles. What important points does each writer include about recycling? Underline these important points in both articles. Then make a Venn diagram to compare and contrast them.

4 Write an Extended Response Compare and contrast the most important points in the articles. What points are the same? What are two ways the information about recycling in “Turning Trash into Treasure” is **different** from the information in “from *Recycle That!*”?



Learning Target

How does comparing and contrasting the most important points in two texts on the same topic help you learn more about the topic?

A graphic of a white notepad with a perforated top edge, containing four horizontal blue lines for writing.
