

COMPARE AND CONTRAST CONSTRUCTION DAY

a mini reading transformation pack

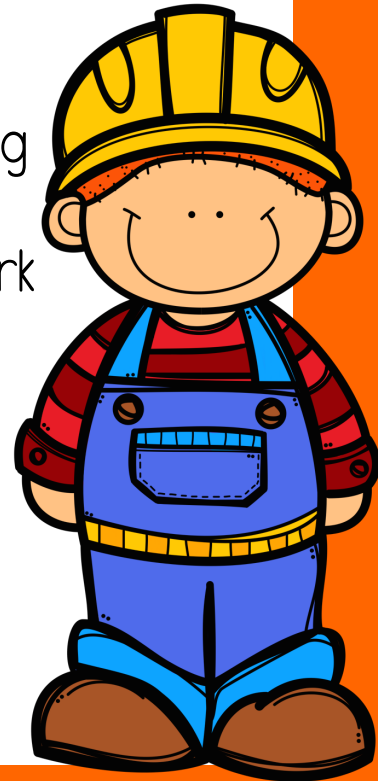


WHAT IS COMPARE & CONTRAST CONSTRUCTION DAY?

This is a mini-pack to help you transform your classroom into a pretend “construction site” as you practice the skill of comparing and contrasting! To put it simply, this is a little pack to help give a fun theme to the skill of compare and contrast! The pack includes a comprehension craftivity to help guide your students in their ability to state differences and similarities, differentiated recording sheets, optional graphic organizers, a sticky note graphic organizer, bookmarks, how I incorporated small group work into our afternoon, and more! The pack also includes all of the EASY ways I incorporated Compare and Contrast Construction Day in my own classroom! Our theme day took place over the course of an afternoon, but you could certainly keep the fun going for as little or as long as you’d like. The compare and contrast craftivity can be used with ANY topic, characters, or text for a hands-on and engaging tool! Your students will love this thematic compare and contrast mini-pack!

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

- Teacher direction pages
- List of optional materials I used for this theme
- Ideas for using this mini-pack
- My own lesson plans for using this mini-pack in my classroom
- Craftivity pieces and directions for the compare and contrast toolbox
- Alternate “no prep” craftivity tool cards
- Differentiated recording sheets– various writing and drawing versions
- Job site construction assignment cards for small-group work
- Compare and contrast construction bookmark
- Compare and contrast graphic organizers – drawing and writing versions
- Compare and contrast sticky note graphic organizer
- Links to additional resources you may love
- Terms of use and credits page



IDEAS FOR USING THIS MINI PACK



thematic fun during your reading block



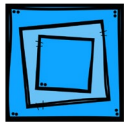
thematic fun during small-group reading



stand-alone comprehension craftivity and lesson



family literacy night



compare and contrast mini-lessons



hold fun “Reading Theme Days” during the year!

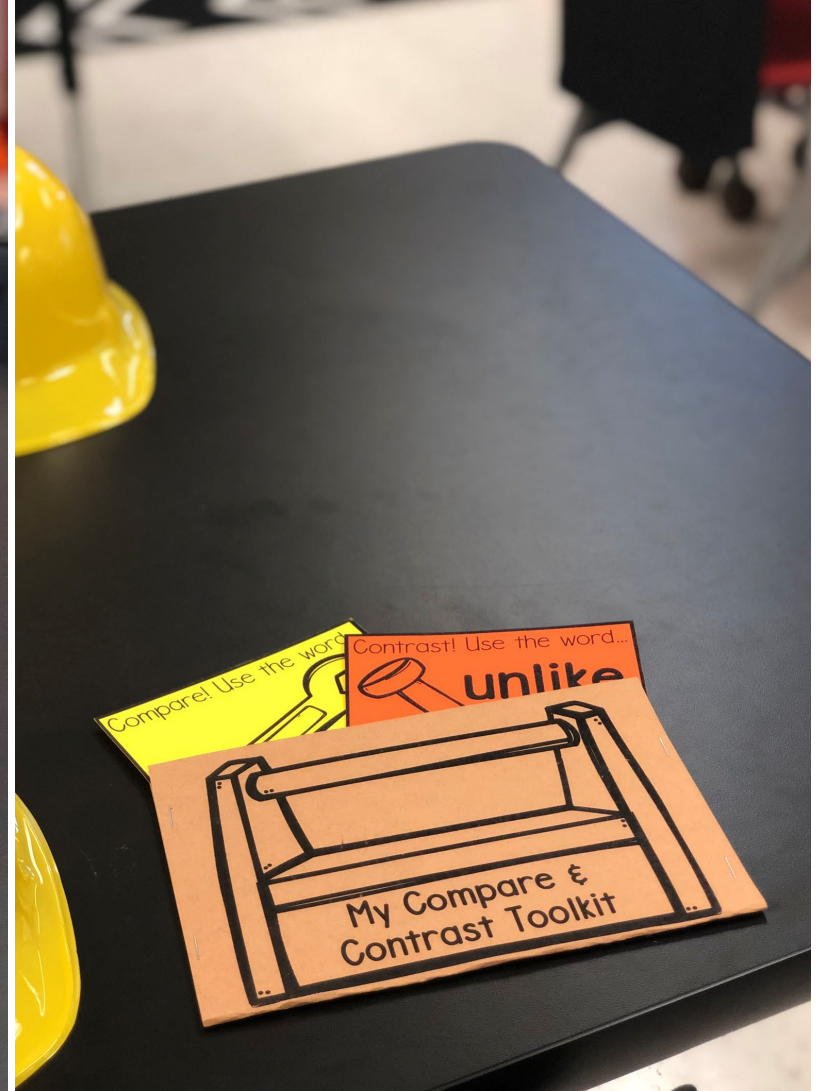


homeschool, after-school, or summer school activities

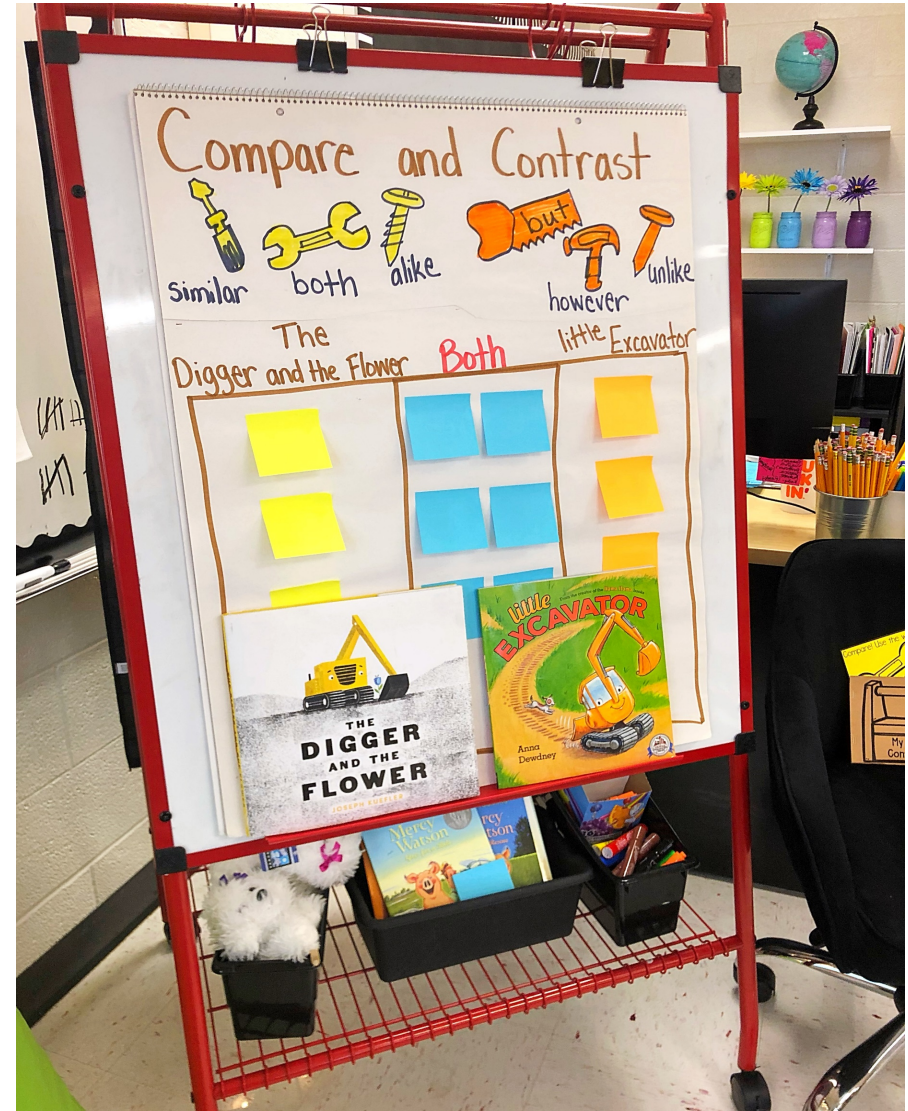
PICTURES OF MY CLASSROOM'S COMPARE & CONTRAST CONSTRUCTION DAY!



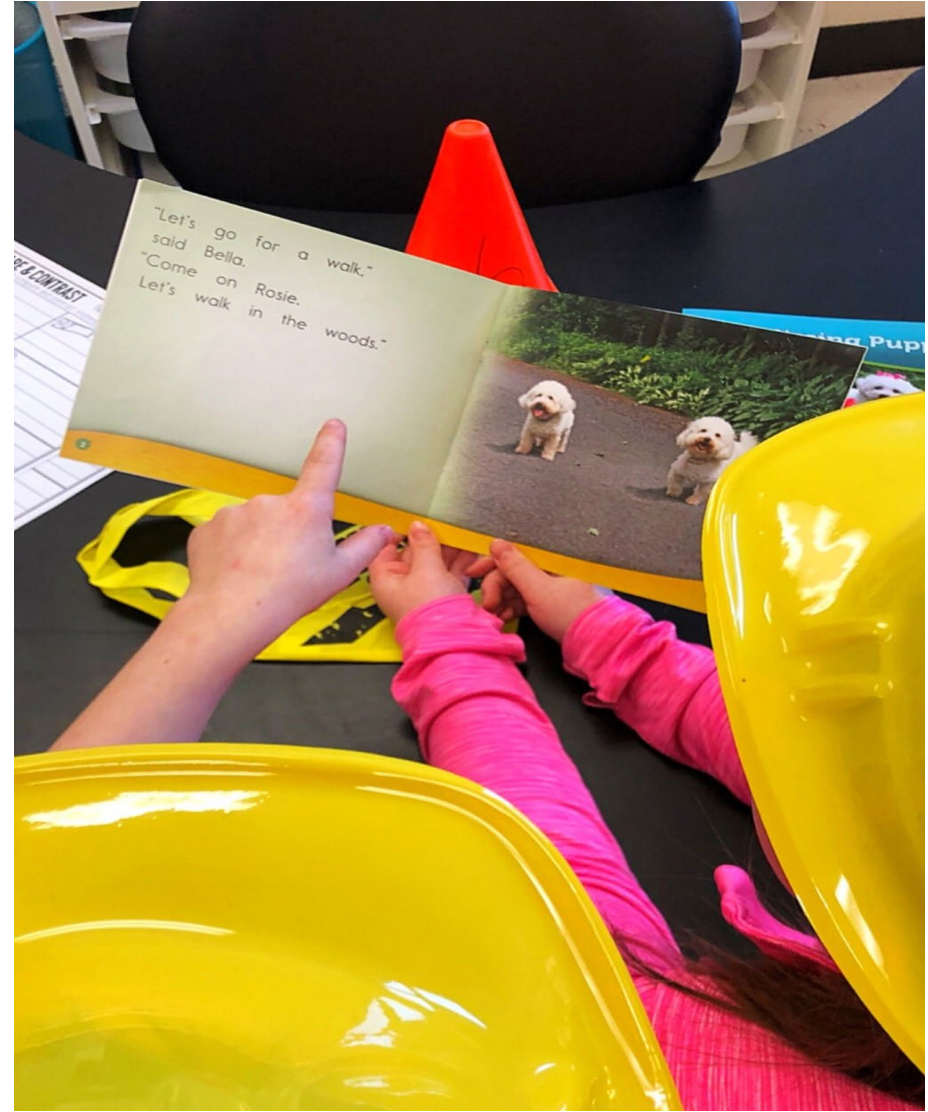
EACH STUDENT RECEIVED A HARD HAT AND A COMPARE AND CONTRAST TOOLKIT!



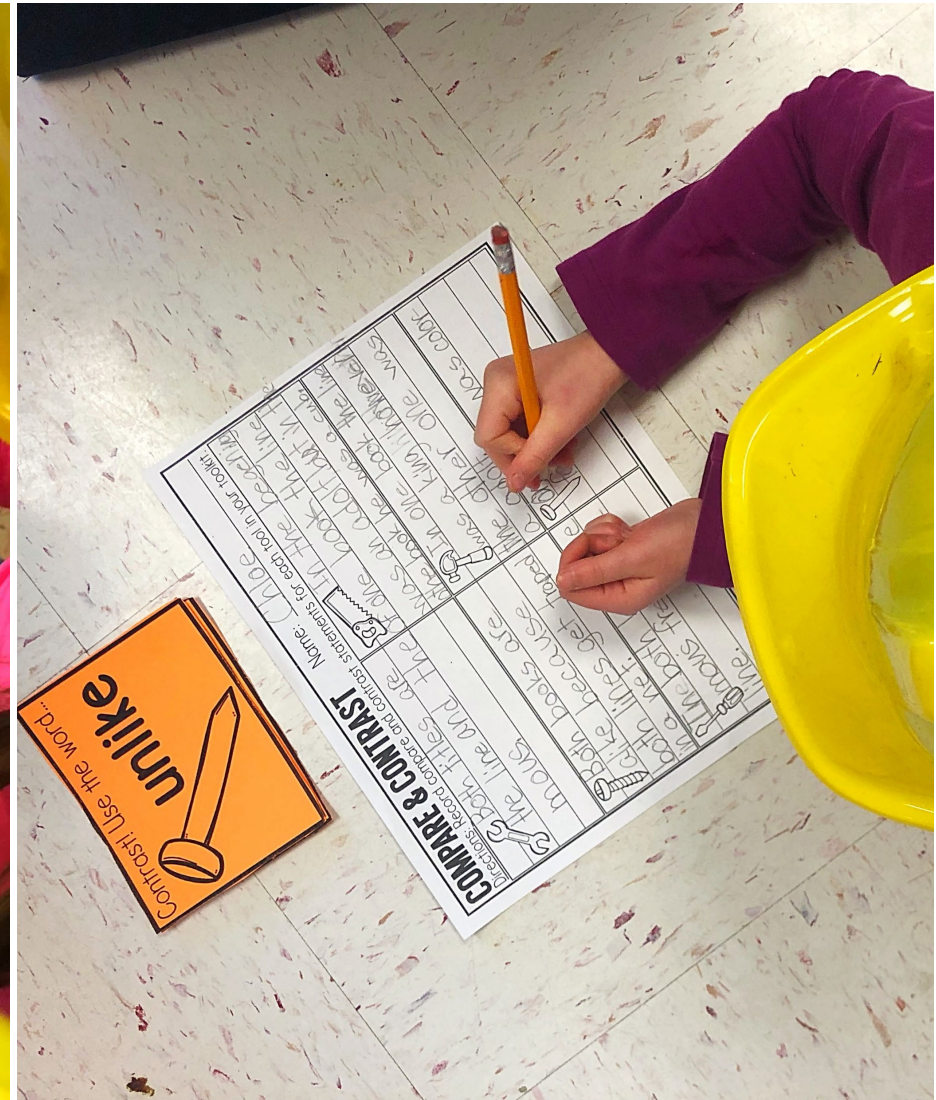
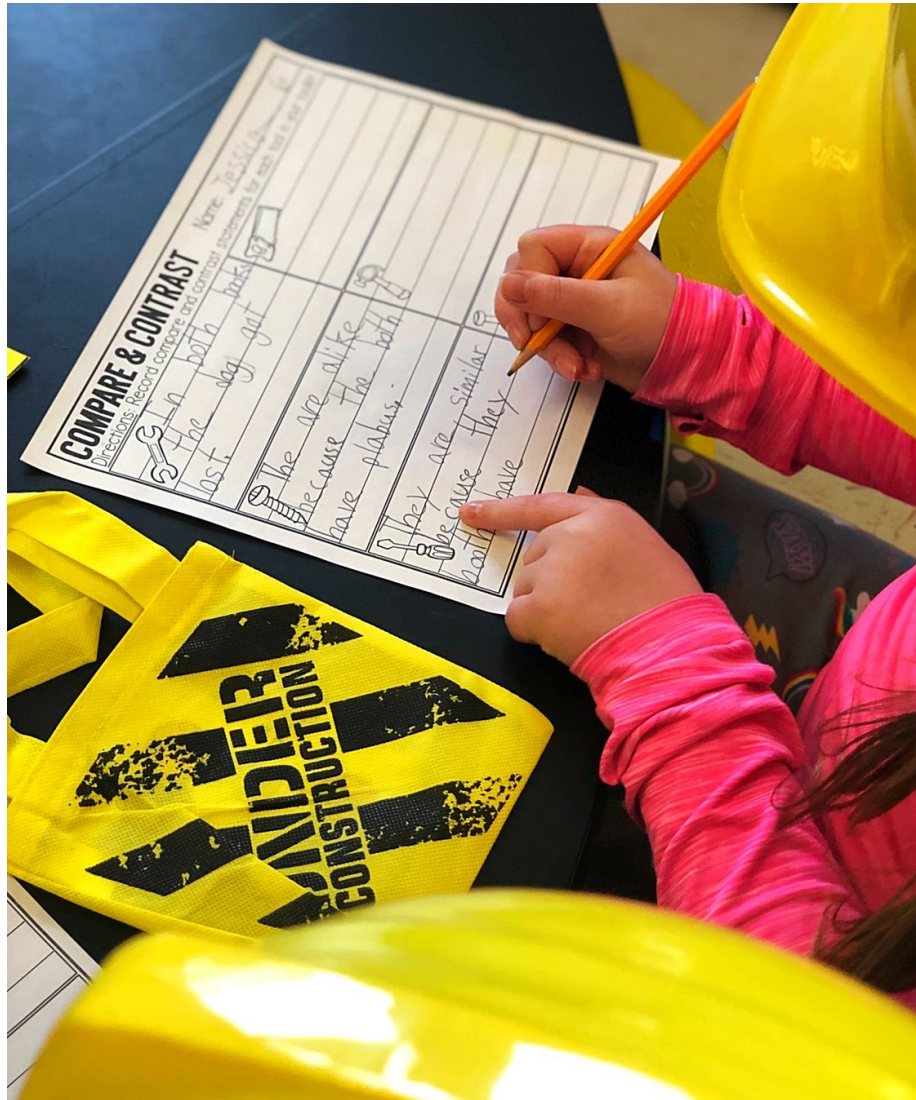
WHOLE-GROUP ACTIVITY: COMPARE AND CONTRAST TWO CONSTRUCTION BOOKS!



SMALL GROUP: COMPARE AND CONTRAST TWO TEXTS AT THE "JOB SITE"!



STUDENTS RECORDED COMPARE AND CONTRAST SENTENCES USING THEIR TOOLS



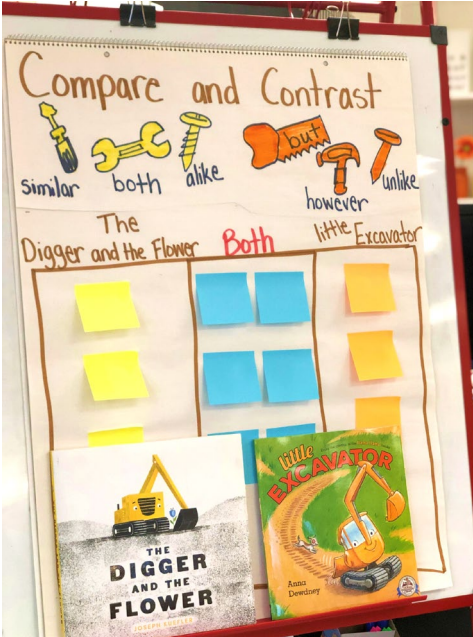
OTHER MATERIALS YOU CAN ADD TO YOUR CONSTRUCTION THEME:

I found the following additional materials for Compare & Contrast Construction Day on Amazon. These are used to add fun and novelty to your day!

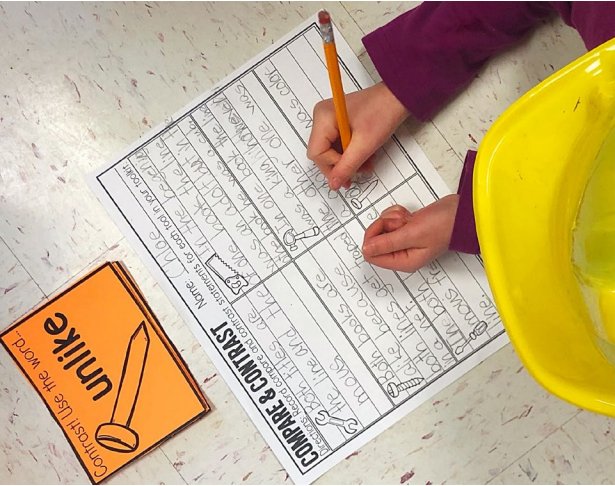
You can get direct, clickable links to the exact items I ordered for the items below:

- [plastic hard hats](#)
- [orange construction cones](#)
- [construction tape](#)
- books I used for the whole-group lesson:
- [Little Excavator](#) and [The Digger and the Flower](#)

MY COMPARE & CONTRAST LESSON PLANS:

activity	materials used	description and plans
<p>Whole-Group Read-Aloud and Compare/Contrast Activity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plastic hard hats Two books: I chose <i>Little Excavator</i> by Anna Dewdney and <i>The Digger and the Flower</i> by Joseph Kuefler Compare and contrast toolkit pouches (one per student) Compare and contrast tool cards (one set per student) Anchor chart of a Venn diagram to record the class's thinking 	<p>My students entered the classroom and found plastic hard hats and empty toolkit pouches at their seats. After we put our hats on, I explained that we were going to work hard on comparing and contrasting books today. First, I had them fill up their toolkits with their tools. To do this, the students cut out their compare and contrast tool cards. I printed the comparing tools on yellow paper and the contrasting tools on orange paper. Then, they met me at the carpet with their toolkits.</p> <p>I read both books to the students at the carpet. As we read and enjoyed the second book, the students began to make remarks about ways <i>The Digger and the Flower</i> and <i>Little Excavator</i> were the same and different.</p> <p>After reading the books, I had the students pull out their comparing tool cards. I said, "Construction workers, please take out your wrenches! We're going to use this tool to compare the two books using the word "both". I modeled using the card for the students by saying, "<i>The Digger and the Flower</i> and <i>Little Excavator</i> <u>both</u> had excavators as the main characters." Then the students did a "turn and talk" and worked with partners at the carpet to come up with other sentences that compared the two books using the keyword on the wrench card: both. We repeated this process for each of the six tool cards in our toolkits. After I modeled how to use each keyword on the card, the students used complete sentences to verbally compare and contrast the two books with their partners at the carpet. As we worked, I recorded the students' ideas on our class Venn diagram/anchor chart. As students turned and talked for each tool card, I circulated and assisted the students in their oral language skills as needed.</p>

MY LESSON PLANS, CONTINUED:

activity	materials used	description and plans
<p>Small-Group Work: Compare and Contrast Two Texts with a Recording Sheet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orange construction cones Two books (or passages) per small group- I put my students in groups of three. (You can group into partners, groups of four, complete it during guided reading groups, etc.) Two books per small group to compare and contrast: These books were on or around each group's independent reading level. Using two versions of fables and fairy tales works well! Recording sheets (one per student) Job assignment cards (one per group) Compare and contrast toolkits and tool cards 	<p>Prior to our small-group activity, I grouped my students into groups of three. Students in each group were around the same independent reading level. Since I had six groups in my classroom, I placed six orange cones around the room and put two similar books under each cone. Then I handed out a jobsite assignment card to each group. The group had to find the numbered cone that matched their job site assignment card. (Example: Group 5 had to find the cone with a 5 on it. Underneath the cone, they found the two books they would compare and contrast together.)</p> <p>Together, each group read the two books that they found underneath their job site construction cone. Then they used the tool cards in their toolkits to discuss how the books were similar and different. The students filled out their recording sheets by writing compare and contrast sentences. (Choose a differentiated recording sheet that works best for your students.) They used their tool cards to help them use the compare and contrast words in their sentences, such as both, similar, alike, however, but, and unlike.</p> <p>As the students read and worked, I circulated around the room to help students compare and contrast their two books. I prompted with questions such as, "How did each book end?" and "Hmm...it looks like this book has animals as the characters. What are the characters like in the second book you read?" This helped the students learn how to dig into their books and find new ways to compare and contrast the two texts. I also found that many students could tell me what was the same or different about the texts, but they needed support in knowing how to use the signal words within a complete sentence.</p>

MY LESSON PLANS, CONTINUED:

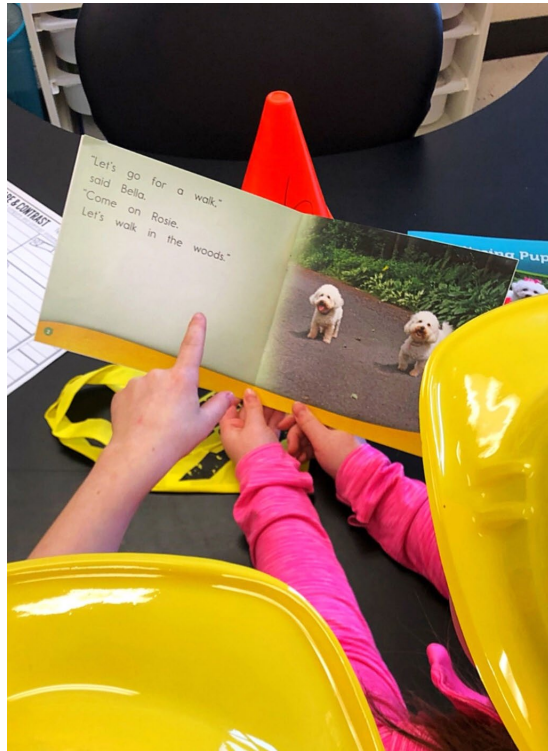
activity

materials used

description and plans

- Compare and contrast bookmarks (one per student)
- Recording sheets
- Meeting area (tables or carpet/rug)

Share Time:
Review and Wrap-Up



As students finished up their small-group work, they returned to their tables with their recording sheets. We reviewed all of the fun activities we did during our Compare and Contrast Construction Day. I congratulated them on all of the hard work they did as construction workers. We also reviewed why comparing and contrasting is so important:

- It helps us make connections between characters that we read about.
- It helps us make connections between different events in stories.
- It helps us think critically about the books we read.
- It helps us understand when authors share similarities and differences between two topics, characters, events, or ideas.

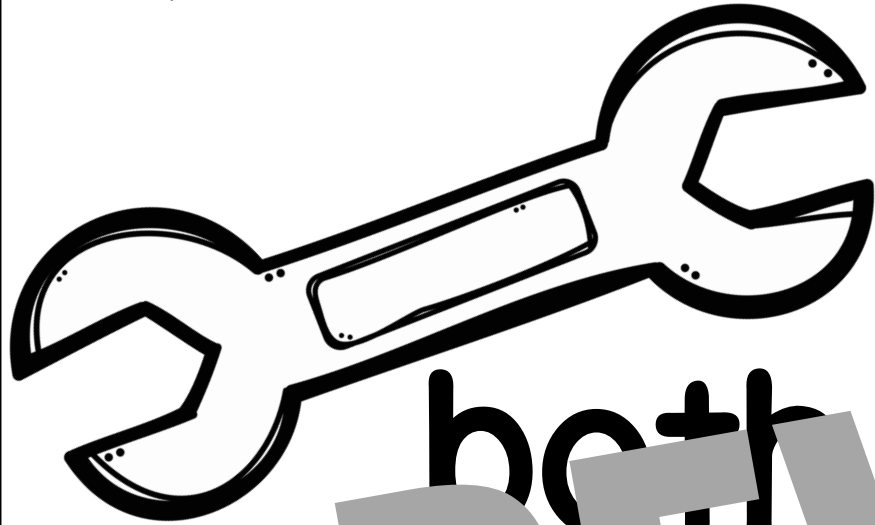
Students then took a few minutes to share a little about the books they read and worked on with the other students at their tables. The students loved talking about the different fairy tale versions, fable versions, or general fiction books they read about!

To conclude the day's work, I passed out a compare and contrast bookmark to every student. These bookmarks were stored in their book bins so that the students could continue to independently practice the reading skill during independent reading time.

My students took their toolkits and tool cards home with them so that they could use them to practice with their nightly take-home books. They also got to keep their plastic hard hats, but you could certainly collect and wash the hats to use for next year since they are plastic!

The following pages provide you with a taste of *some* of the activities included within the full pack. The full pack contains additional job site cards, pages, and instructional pages for assembly, ideas of use, etc.

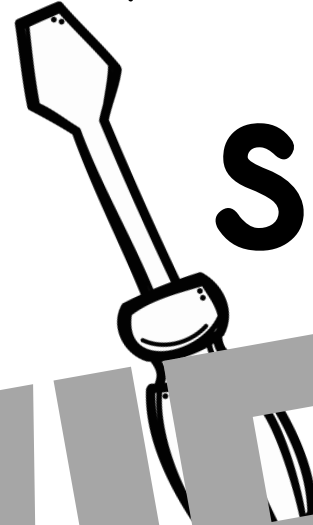
Compare! Use the word...



both

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Compare! Use the word...

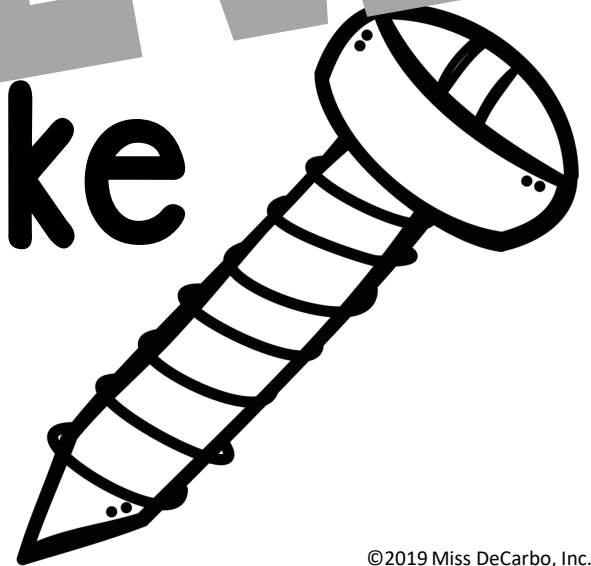


similar

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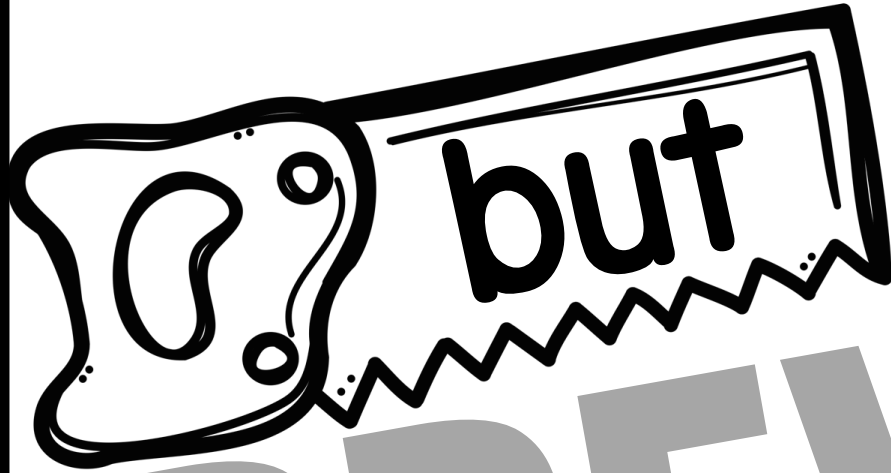
Compare! Use the word...

alike



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Contrast! Use the word...



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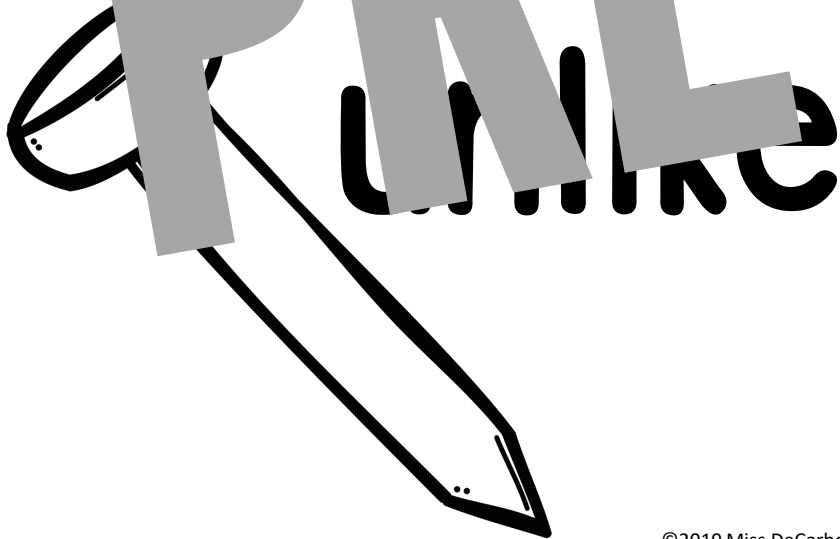
Contrast! Use the word...



however

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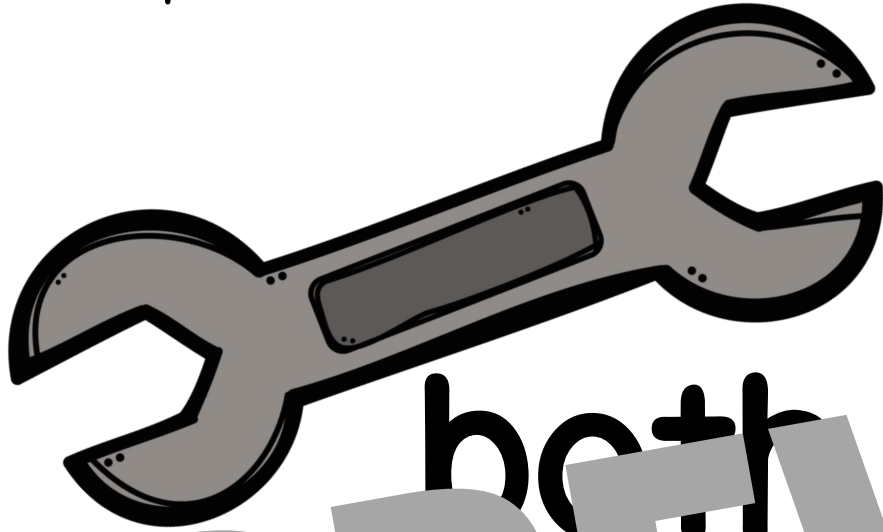
Contrast! Use the word...



unlike

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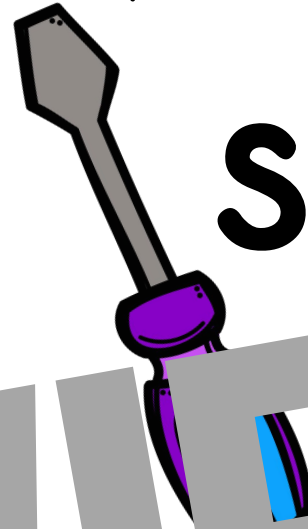
Compare! Use the word...



both

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Compare! Use the word...



similar

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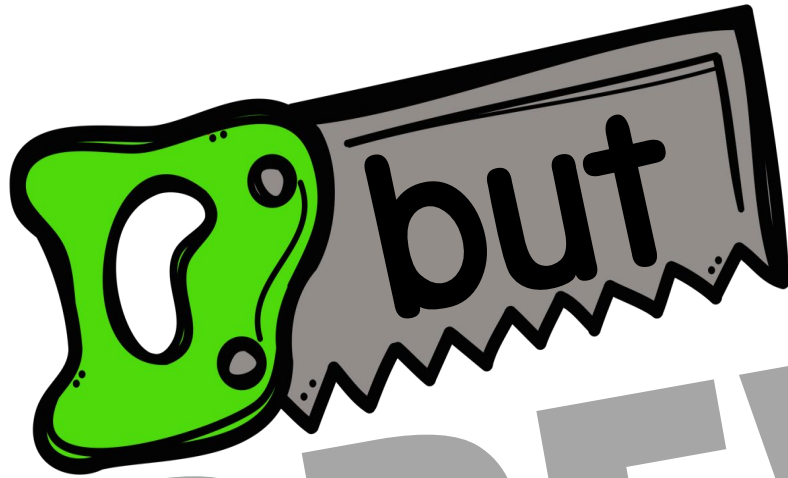
Compare! Use the word...

alike



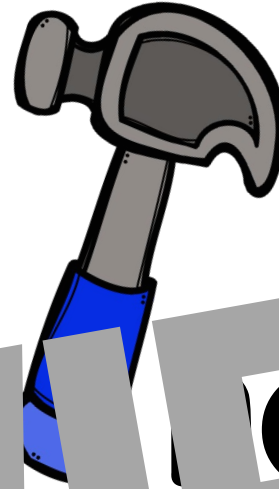
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Contrast! Use the word...



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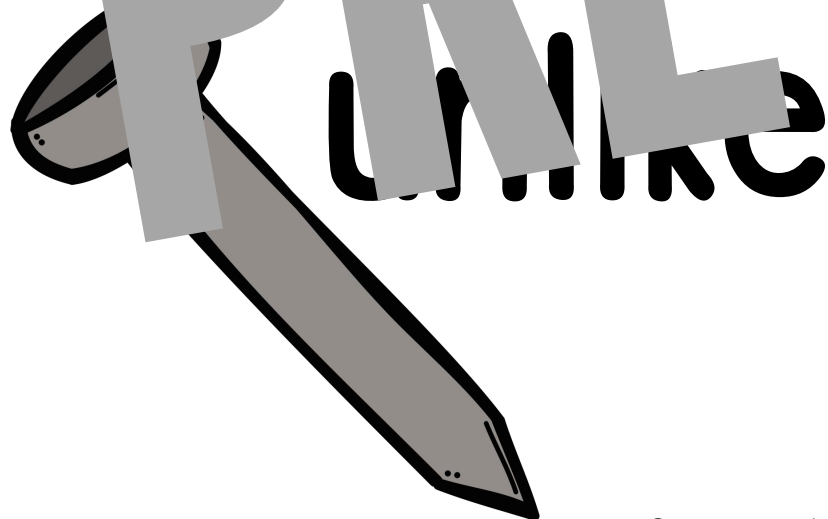
Contrast! Use the word...



however

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Contrast! Use the word...

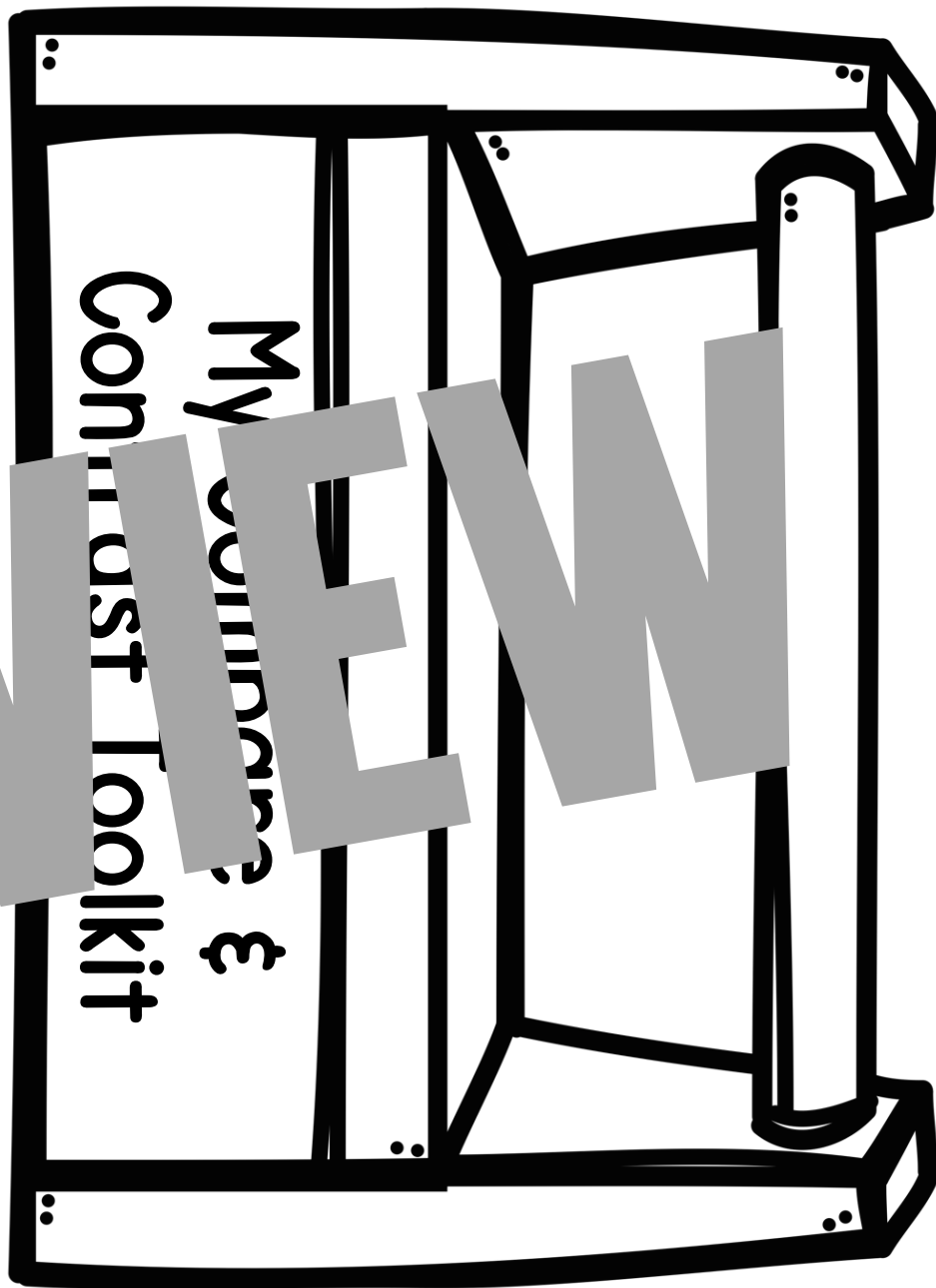


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PREVIEW

My Soundings &
Conduct Toolkit



PREVIEW





PREVIEW

**My Compare &
Contrast Toolkit**

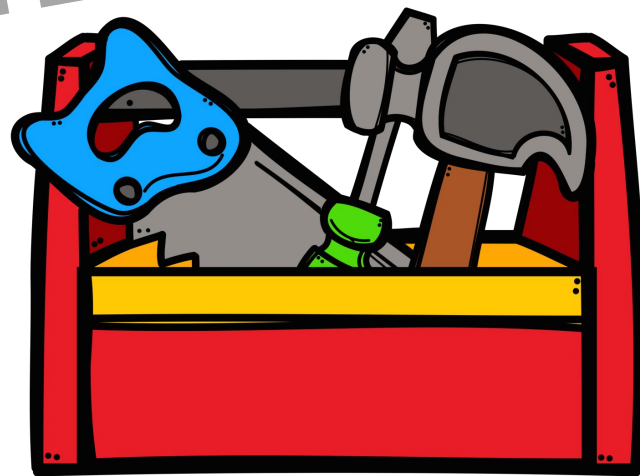


My Compare &
Contrast Toolkit

ALTERNATE "NO PREP" CRAFTIVITY

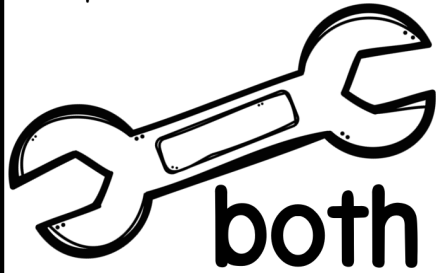
For most teachers, time is precious. You may not have time (or energy) to print, fold, and staple all of the toolkit pouches and then have students cut out their tool cards. If you lack the time or resources to assemble the larger toolkit craftivity and coordinating cards, I've included a "just print" version on the following page that you can use as an alternative.

Simply print out the tool cards on the following page. There are two versions on each page. Students can simply cut out the tool cards and use the square cards for their coloring and assembly. This saves time and still provides your students with clear cueing cards to reference with. Students could also color the tool cards or they could use the color and contrast card.



Cut out the tool cards, and use them to help you compare and contrast the two books.

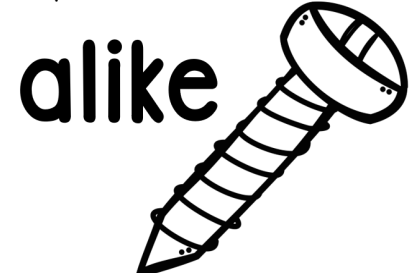
Compare! Use the word...



Compare! Use the word...



Compare! Use the word...



Contrast! Use the word...



Contrast! Use the word...



Contrast! Use the word...



Cut out the tool cards, and use them to help you compare and contrast the two books.

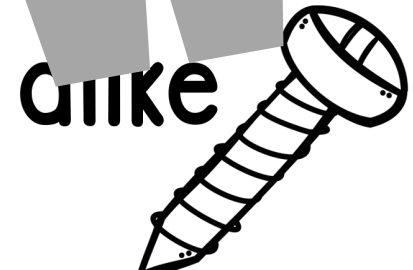
Compare! Use the word...



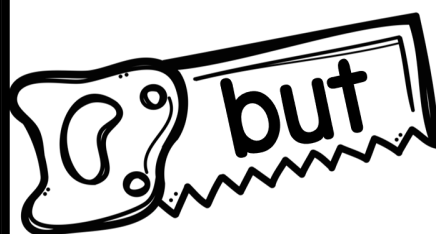
Compare! Use the word...



Compare! Use the word...



Contrast! Use the word...



Contrast! Use the word...



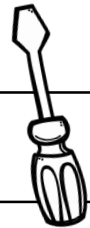
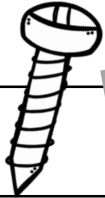
Contrast! Use the word...



COMPARE & CONTRAST

Name: _____

Directions: Record compare and contrast statements for each tool in your toolkit.

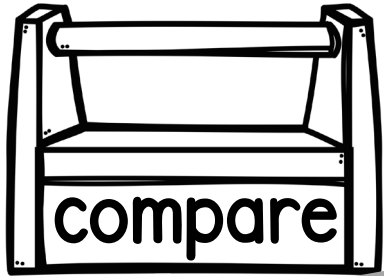


PREVIEW

COMPARE & CONTRAST

Name: _____

Directions: Circle one comparing tool and one contrasting tool from each toolbox, and write about why your topics are alike and different. Use the signal words for the tools you pick when you write your explanation.



similar



both



alike



ev



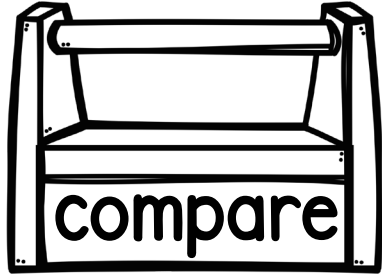
unlike

PREVIEW

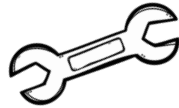
COMPARE & CONTRAST

Name: _____

Directions: Circle one comparing tool and one contrasting tool from each toolbox, and write about why your topics are alike and different. Use the signal words for the tools you pick when you write your explanation.



similar



both



alike



ev



unlike

PREVIEW

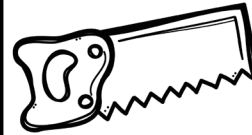
COMPARE & CONTRAST

Name: _____

Directions: Compare and contrast your topics by drawing pictures for each tool.



compare



contrast



compare



contrast



compare



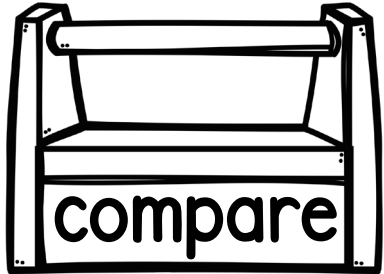
contrast

PREVIEW

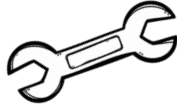
COMPARE & CONTRAST

Name: _____

Directions: Circle one comparing tool and one contrasting tool from each toolbox, and draw how your topics are alike and different.



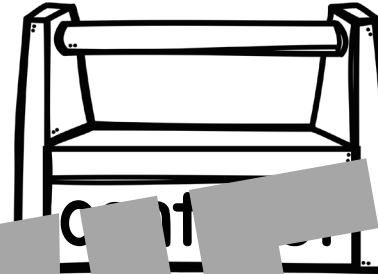
similar



both



alike



not



very



unlike

PREVIEW

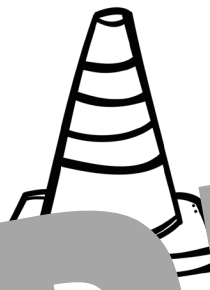
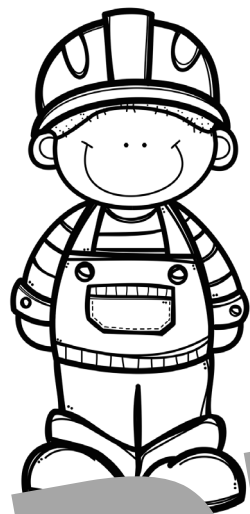
USING THE JOB SITE ASSIGNMENT CARDS

Optional: Print out the number of construction site assignment cards you need (one per small group). Write numbers on your orange cones so that students can identify and find the construction site they are assigned to. (Hint: Dry-erase markers will work on your orange cones and can be erased for the next lesson!) Both color and black and white versions are included.



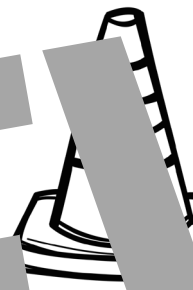
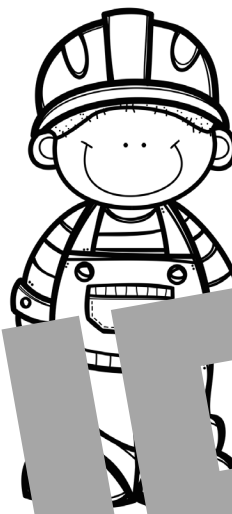
Please report to construction site:

#1



Please report to construction site:

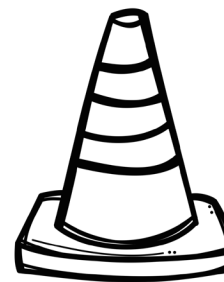
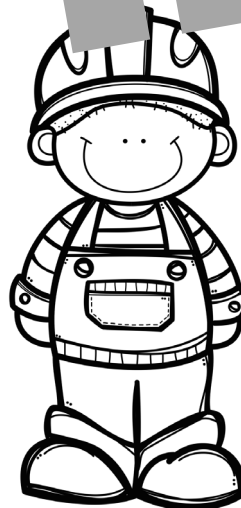
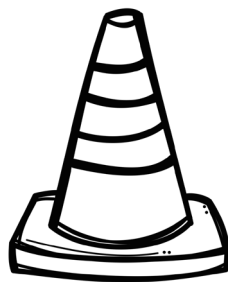
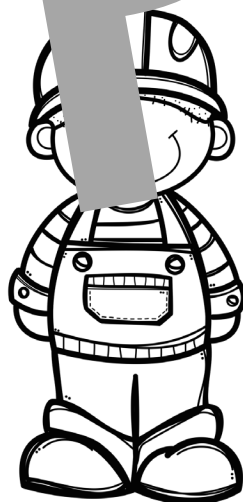
#2



Please report to construction site:

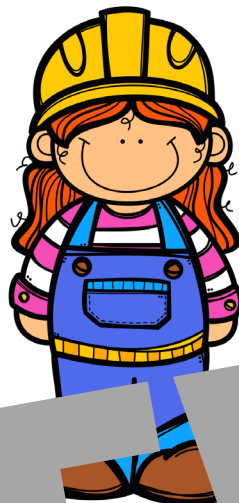
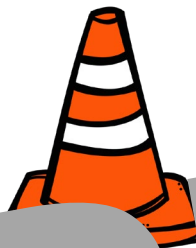
Please report to construction site:

#4



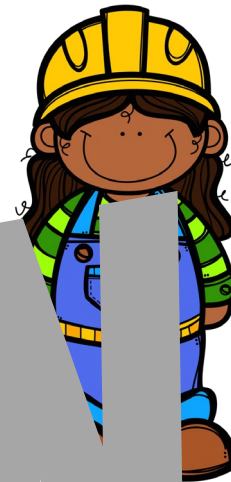
Please report to construction site:

#1



Please report to construction site:

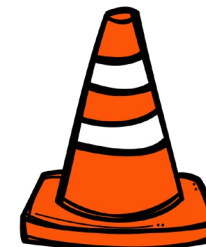
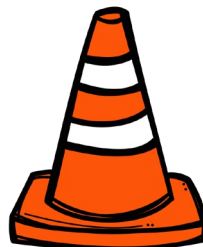
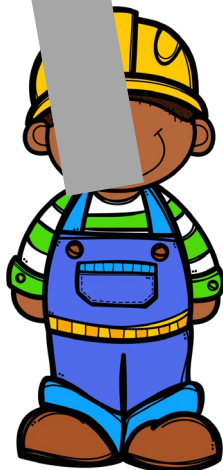
#2

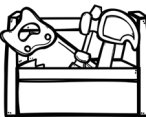
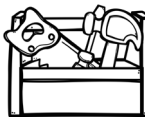

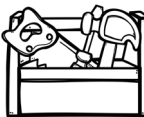






























Please report to construction site:

Please report to construction site:

#4



 MY COMPARE AND CONTRAST BOOKMARK	 MY COMPARE AND CONTRAST BOOKMARK	 MY COMPARE AND CONTRAST BOOKMARK	 MY COMPARE AND CONTRAST BOOKMARK
 State the topics, books, or characters.	 State the topics, books, or characters.	 State the topics, books, or characters.	 State the topics, books, or characters.
 Both...	 Both...	 Both...	 Both...
 ____ and ____ are alike because...	 ____ and ____ are alike because...	 ____ and ____ are alike because...	 ____ and ____ are alike because...
 ____ and ____ are similar because...	 ____ and ____ are similar because...	 ____ and ____ are similar because...	 ____ and ____ are similar because...
 ____ like ____, ____ is...	 ____ like ____, ____ is...	 ____ Unlike ____, ____ is...	 ____ Unlike ____, ____ is...
 ____ is ____ however...	 ____ is ____ however...	 ____ is ____ however...	 ____ is ____ however...
 ____, but...	 ____, but...	 ____, but...	 ____, but...

COMPARE & CONTRAST

Name: _____

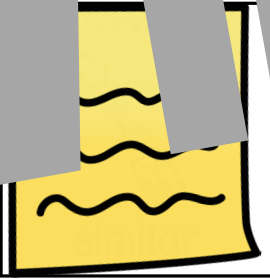
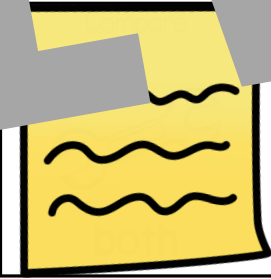


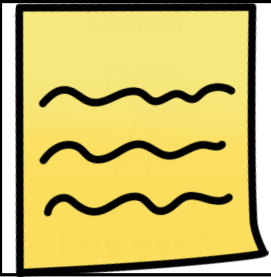

Directions: Write your two topics above the outside rectangles. Record ways your topics are different. In the center rectangle, record ways your topics are alike.

_____ both _____

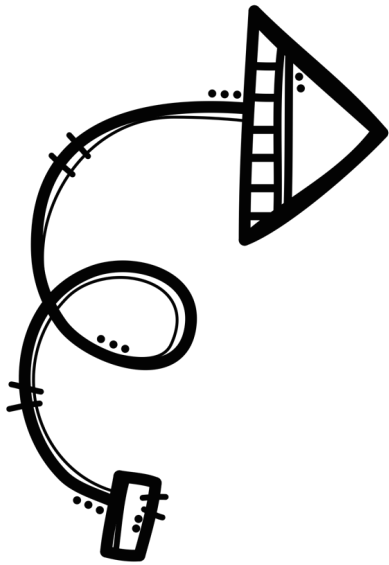
PREVIEW

OPTIONAL TOOL: THE COMPARE AND CONTRAST STICKY NOTE MAT

The organizer on the following page is perfect to use with sticky notes! Print the organizer on cardstock for durability. Students can work to identify three similarities and three differences for two topics, books, characters, events, etc. Students can write or draw the similarities and differences on the sticky notes and place each note on the mat. The mat is designed to compare and contrast two items directly or opposite each other. Each part of the organizer. The organizer encourages students to use a signal word as they explain the similarities or differences. The sticky notes can then be removed and the mat can be used again and again!

		 alike
Contrast  but		Contrast  unlike

YOU MAY LIKE THIS ADDITIONAL COMPARE AND CONTRAST RESOURCE:



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COMPREHENSION PASSAGES COMPARE & CONTRAST

Princess Cam & Princess Pam

Princess Cam lives in a big castle. She has on a purple and blue dress. Princess Cam does not like to wear a crown. She also has a pink hat with a purple ribbon on it. Princess Cam has long, brown hair. Her favorite thing to do is play outside. She loves to have a tea party with her stuffed animals. She also likes to read. She is a kind and sweet princess. Princess Pam lives in a castle, too. Unlike Princess Cam, her dress is blue and green. She likes art, singing, and reading. Princess Pam is a kind princess, but sometimes she can be selfish.

Read the passage three times. Color a star each time you read.

Compare. Underline the similarities in blue.

Evergreen Tree & Palm Tree

An evergreen tree is a tree that does not lose its leaves. They have long, thin leaves. The leaves are shaped like needles. Evergreen trees can live in cold weather. The seed of an evergreen tree is a pine cone. The evergreen tree below is dark green. It has a dark brown tree trunk. People often cut down evergreen trees at winter time. An evergreen tree can be home to many animals.

A palm tree is a tropical plant. It lives in warm weather. The leaves of a palm tree are big and flat. They can be shaped like a fan or a feather. Like evergreen trees, palm trees do not lose their leaves. Coconuts grow on palm trees.

Read the passage three times. Color a star each time you read.

Compare. Underline the similarities in blue.

Donut and Cinnamon Roll

A donut is a sweet treat. Donuts are usually round. Most people in the United States eat donuts as a breakfast food. Eggs, flour, and sugar are important ingredients in a donut. They can have different fillings such as fruit or cream. Some donuts are topped with sprinkles and icing. This donut is chocolate with pink sprinkles and blue icing.

A cinnamon roll is a sweet treat, too. Cinnamon rolls are often eaten as a breakfast food. Flour, sugar, and butter are three main ingredients in cinnamon rolls. Cinnamon rolls are often round in shape. They are tan and topped with white icing. Unlike the donut, cinnamon rolls do not usually have a filling.

Read the passage three times. Color a star each time you read.

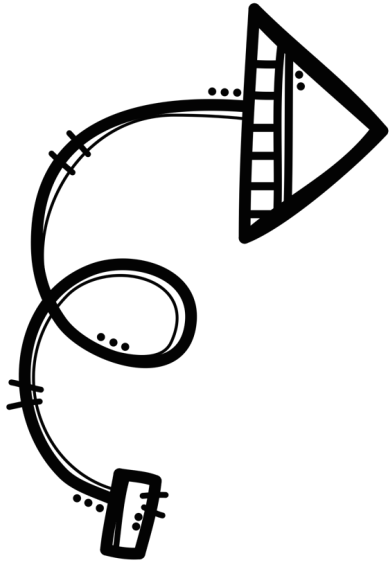
Compare. Underline the similarities in blue.

Contrast. Underline the differences in red.

Illustrate and color the pictures using the information you read in the text.

strategy series

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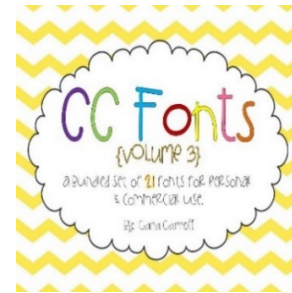
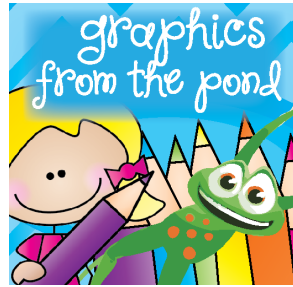
ABOUT MISS DECARBO

Christina DeCarbo-Wagers is an elementary teacher from Northeast, Ohio. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education, a Master's degree in Elementary Literacy, and a specialized K-12 reading endorsement. Christina has experience in instructional consulting, literacy coaching, and professional development services. Over the course of her career she has presented literacy workshops and professional development sessions for Staff Development of Educators, ASCD, and state and local educational conferences. Christina has also provided extensive services and trainings for school districts and educational service centers across the state of Ohio.

Christina is passionate about helping students reach their greatest potential as readers and writers. Her engaging resources are based in developmentally-appropriate research, and are founded in the importance of critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills for young learners. Her educational company, Miss DeCarbo, Inc., was founded in 2012 and provides educators with curriculum, ideas, research-based advice, and inspiration. You can learn more about Miss DeCarbo by visiting her website, www.missdecarbo.com.



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