

Standard 2.2

Evidence Outcomes

a. Use Key Ideas and Details to:

i. Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers. (CCSS: RI.3.1)

ii. Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea. (CCSS: RI.3.2)

b. Use Craft and Structure to:

i. Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area. (CCSS:RI.3.4)

iv. Use semantic cues and signal words (because, although) to identify cause/effect and compare/contrast relationships

c. Use Integration of Knowledge and Ideas to:

i. Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur). (CCSS: RI.3.7)

ii. Describe the logical connection between particular sentences and paragraphs in a text (e.g., comparison, cause/effect, first/second/third in a sequence). (CCSS: RI.3.8)

iii. Compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in two texts on the same topic. (CCSS: RI.3.9) (CCSS: L.3.4c)

Lesson 6 Objective: Students will write a compare and contrast short answer

There are many organizational tools available to reinforce the concept of compare and contrast. During the next lesson, our focus will be on how to write a short response to a compare and contrast question. You may use the tool we included with this lesson or choose one that fits your curriculum.

Activities:

- On chart paper make a two column chart. Title one side ***“Similarities”*** and the other side ***“Differences.”*** The two concepts we are going to compare and contrast are a beehive and a human house. If possible, provide students with a visual of the two items. Under the word ***“Similarities”*** write *Compare* and under ***“Differences”*** write the term *Contrast*. It is important that students be exposed to both of these terms, and understand they are synonyms. When I am comparing two brands of ice cream, I am looking for what they have in common.
- As a class, brainstorm ways that a beehive and a house are the same. List these similarities on that side of the chart. ***For example:*** they are both homes, they both have rooms, they both have roofs, they both contain food etc.

Similarities/Compare	Differences/Contrast
<p>Both homes</p> <p>Both have rooms</p> <p>Both have roofs</p> <p>Both contain food</p>	

Standard 3.2

Evidence Outcomes

a. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly. (CCSS:W.3.2)

ii. State main ideas and include sufficient details or facts for appropriate depth of information (naming, describing, explaining, comparing, use of visual images)

Standard 3.3

Evidence Outcomes

a. With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose. (CCSS: W.3.4)

b. With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing. (CCSS: W.3.5)

d. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening. (CCSS: L.3.3)

e. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. (CCSS: L.3.1)

f. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing. (CCSS: L.3.2)

i. Capitalize appropriate words in titles. (CCSS: L.3.2a)

- Now, brainstorm ways that a beehive and a house are different/contrast. **For example:** one is a house for insects and the other is a house for humans, a hive is made from wax and a house is made of wood, a house has windows, a hive has honeycombs, etc.

Similarities/Compare	Differences/Contrast
Both homes Both have rooms Both have roofs Both contain roofs	Hive – insects House – people Hive – wax House – wood Hive – honeycombs

- Provide students with other objects that can be compared and contrasted following the above procedure.
- Put the following prompt on the board.

How are a beehive and a house both similar and different? Compare and contrast the two using the information on the chart.

- As a shared writing activity, write a complete *Shining Star* answer. In order for students' answers to be clear and concise, students should focus first on the similarities. The comparisons/similarities are all written using complete sentences. The contrasting/differences information will be written as complete sentences as well. The trick here is to not inter-mingle the two opposing types of information. **When writing a compare and contrast answer to a question, we will need to include two big ideas. We also need to have a topic sentence because our reader needs to know the two object that we are going to compare and contrast.** When we are asked to compare and contrast items, our answer will have many of the characteristics of a paragraph. Look at the question and decide what words need to be used in our topic sentence and underline those words.

How are a beehive and a human house both similar and different? Compare and contrast the beehive and the human home using the information on the chart.

- These words should be used in the topic sentence. **Example:**

Beehives and human houses have both similarities and differences.

- Since we listed similarities first in our topic sentence, we need to first focus only on how they are similar. Using our plan, we will write about the similarities between beehives and houses. **For example:**

Beehives and human houses have both similarities and differences. They are alike because they are both homes, they both contain rooms and a roof, and you can find food in both places.

The number of complete sentences within the short answer is dependent on the number of similarities and differences you identify. Paragraph writing for this skill will come later in the plans.

- Now it is time to write the differences we found. You need to tell your reader you are changing focus from similarities to differences. **For example:**

Beehives and human houses have both similarities and differences. They are alike because they are both homes, they both contain rooms and a roof, and you can find food in both places. Hives and houses also have differences.

- Using your plan, you will now write the differences or contrasts between the two items. Include both items when you write contrasts. **For example:**

Beehives and human houses have both similarities and differences. They are alike because they are both homes, they both contain rooms and a roof, and you can find food in both places. Hives and houses also have differences. Bees live in a hive and people live in a house. Hives are made of wax and a house is made of wood. A hive does not have windows but a house does contain them.

- When I provide information on how objects are both similar and different, I need to include both objects in every sentence and what makes each of them alike or different. Underline the word beehive and house in the first comparison sentence, or the pronoun that replaces these words. Check to make sure that both items are included in each comparison and contrast. **For example:** I cannot just say that a house has windows, I also need to include that a hive does not have windows, but it has a place to enter and exit the hive.
- Have students look at the next sentence and decide if we included a word that lets our reader know what we are comparing. Discuss and have students check the remainder of our short answer to make sure we followed the rule that we have provided an example of both objects when each comparison sentence and each contrasting sentence.
- It is time to conclude our short answer. We need to simply restate our topic sentence as a conclusion. For example: Similarities and differences exist between a house and a beehive.
- Provide students an opportunity to practice writing compare and contrast short answers, both as a shared writing activity and independently. Use content curriculum whenever possible to provide practice for compare and contrast written responses. Use your surroundings, such as compare and contrast a week's worth of weather, compare and contrast different ways to solve a math problem, compare and contrast two habitats, compare and contrast two story characters, etc.