

SMART™ Lesson

Comparing and Contrasting Texts

In reading, we often come across different texts that may be similar or different in many ways. By comparing and contrasting these texts, we can develop a better understanding of the topic we are learning about. Here are some tips for comparing and contrasting nonfiction texts:

- Look for similarities and differences in the topic, main idea, or purpose of the texts.
- Identify the tone and voice of the author in each text to determine how they approach the topic.
- Compare the sources used in each text to see how credible they are.

Activity

Read the two texts below and answer the following questions:

Text 1: Trees

Trees are important for many reasons. They provide us with oxygen to breathe and they also clean the air. Trees also provide shade, which keeps us cool in hot weather. Some trees even give us food, like apples and oranges. There are many different types of trees, such as pine, oak, and maple. Each tree has its own unique characteristics.

Text 2: Flowers

Flowers are beautiful and they come in many different colors and shapes. They are often used for decoration, like in bouquets or as centerpieces at weddings. Flowers also provide nectar for bees and butterflies, which help pollinate other plants. Some flowers are even used in medicine to treat illnesses. Examples of common flowers include roses, daisies, and tulips.

1. What are some similarities between Trees and Flowers?
2. What are some differences between Trees and Flowers?
3. Which text provides more information about how the subject is useful?

Answer Key

1. Both Trees and Flowers are living things found in nature.
2. Trees provide oxygen and shade, while Flowers are often used for decoration and provide nectar for pollinators.
3. The Trees text provides more information about the usefulness of the subject, as it mentions that trees provide oxygen and clean the air.

