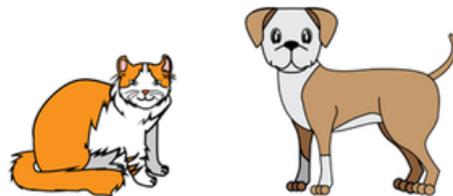


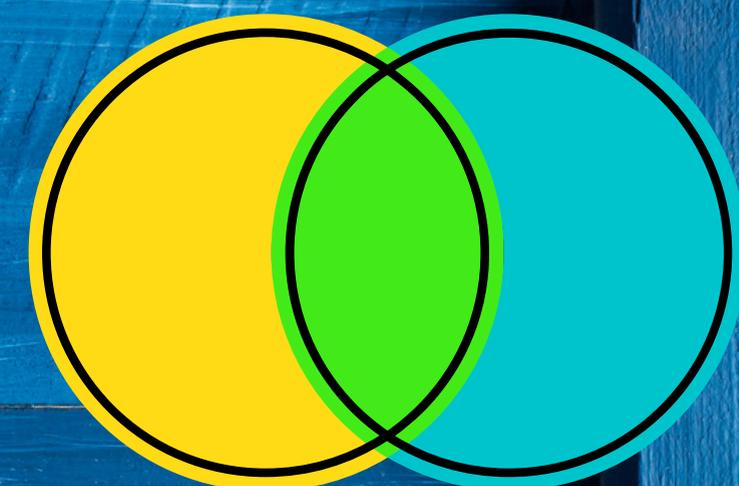
SPECIAL ED

# COMPARE & CONTRAST: A READING STRATEGY

I have 2 pets



I have 2 pets, a dog and a cat. They both have a tail, fur, paws, and teeth. But my cat can climb a tree and catch a mouse. My dog can't do that. But my dog will bark and growl if there is danger near by. He even does that sometimes when I take him for a walk. Ever since they were a puppy and kitten, it has been my job to feed them and brush their fur. I give my cat, cat food, and my dog gets dog food. If I forget, my cat will meow to get my attention.



# INCLUDES GOOGLE SLIDES



This unit was created with this guy in mind. He has autism and an intellectual disability. He is a non-reader but loves books and stories. With some support he is able to do this unit, and enjoys the challenge. He is my tester!!

# Comparing and Contrasting

## Unit for Special Education

By

Christa Joy

Special Needs for Special Kids



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids

### Table of Contents

Worksheet Pages	Title
4-33	Compare and Contrast book
34-36	Vocabulary board
37-50	Compare 2 objects (t-charts)
51-64	Contrast 2 objects
65-86	Compare 2 objects (Venn diagrams)
87-122	Comparing and Contrasting in short stories
123-126	Quiz
127-128	Terms of Use

#### In separate files, you will find:

- Lesson plan
- Group activities
- Large cards for group activities
- Voice recorded PowerPoint
- Links and directions to digital activities

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This unit contains over 100 pages of material. I have included a detailed lesson plan to help you make the most of everything in this unit including how to add some group activities.

# Compare and Contrast Unit Lesson Plan

## Preparation

- Book
  - Print out, laminate, and bind
  - OR your students can listen to the pre-recorded version
- Vocabulary board
  - Print out the board onto cardstock and laminate
  - Make a card for each student
- Large activity cards
  - Print cards on card stock and laminate (1 set for each student)
- Simple books
  - You will need some short, simple stories or books that students are familiar with to use in the group activities (see the group activities for a list)

## Preassessment (do day 1 before starting lesson)

- Choose the quiz that best fits the learning level of your students (pictures or words)
- Give the assessment to assess what your students may already know
- I cannot emphasize enough how important this step is. If you want to see growth, this preassessment is so important!!

## Teaching Tips

- *Color Coding:* this is a really easy way to add more structure to a matching activity. Outline or color in an empty box or sorting label. Outline or color in the corresponding picture symbols the same colors. Becomes a color matching task.
  - a. For more info, read more here:  
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2015/09/05/using-color-coding-for-differentiation/>
  - b. I also have a blog post on differentiating one activity 3 ways:  
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2018/10/22/differentiating-1-activity-3-ways-easily-and-effectively/>
- *Make your own copies of the activities:* Every day I review the activity we did yesterday. For that reason:
  - a. I often complete the activity myself and often laminated it for easy review that I could use year after year.

The lesson plans contain:

Overall tips for teaching  
students with significant  
needs

## Quick Look

Day	Activity	Day	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Introduce vocabulary board</li><li>• Group activity</li><li>• Compare 2 objects (T-chart)</li></ul>	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Group activity</li><li>• Compare 2 objects (Venn diagram)</li></ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Group activity</li><li>• Compare 2 objects (T-chart)</li></ul>	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Group activity</li><li>• Compare /contrast in short story (Venn diagram)</li></ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Group activity</li><li>• Compare 2 objects (T-chart)</li></ul>	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Group activity</li><li>• Compare /contrast in short story (Venn diagram)</li></ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Group activity</li><li>• Contrast 2 objects (T-chart)</li></ul>	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Group activity</li><li>• Compare /contrast in short story (Venn diagram)</li></ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Group activity</li><li>• Contrast 2 objects (T-chart)</li></ul>	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Group activity</li><li>• Compare /contrast in short story (Venn diagram)</li></ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Group activity</li><li>• Contrast 2 objects (T-chart)</li></ul>	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Group activity</li><li>• Compare /contrast in short story (Venn diagram)</li></ul>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Group activity</li><li>• Compare 2 objects (Venn diagram)</li></ul>	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quiz</li></ul>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Group activity</li><li>• Compare 2 objects (Venn diagram)</li></ul>		

The lesson plans contain:

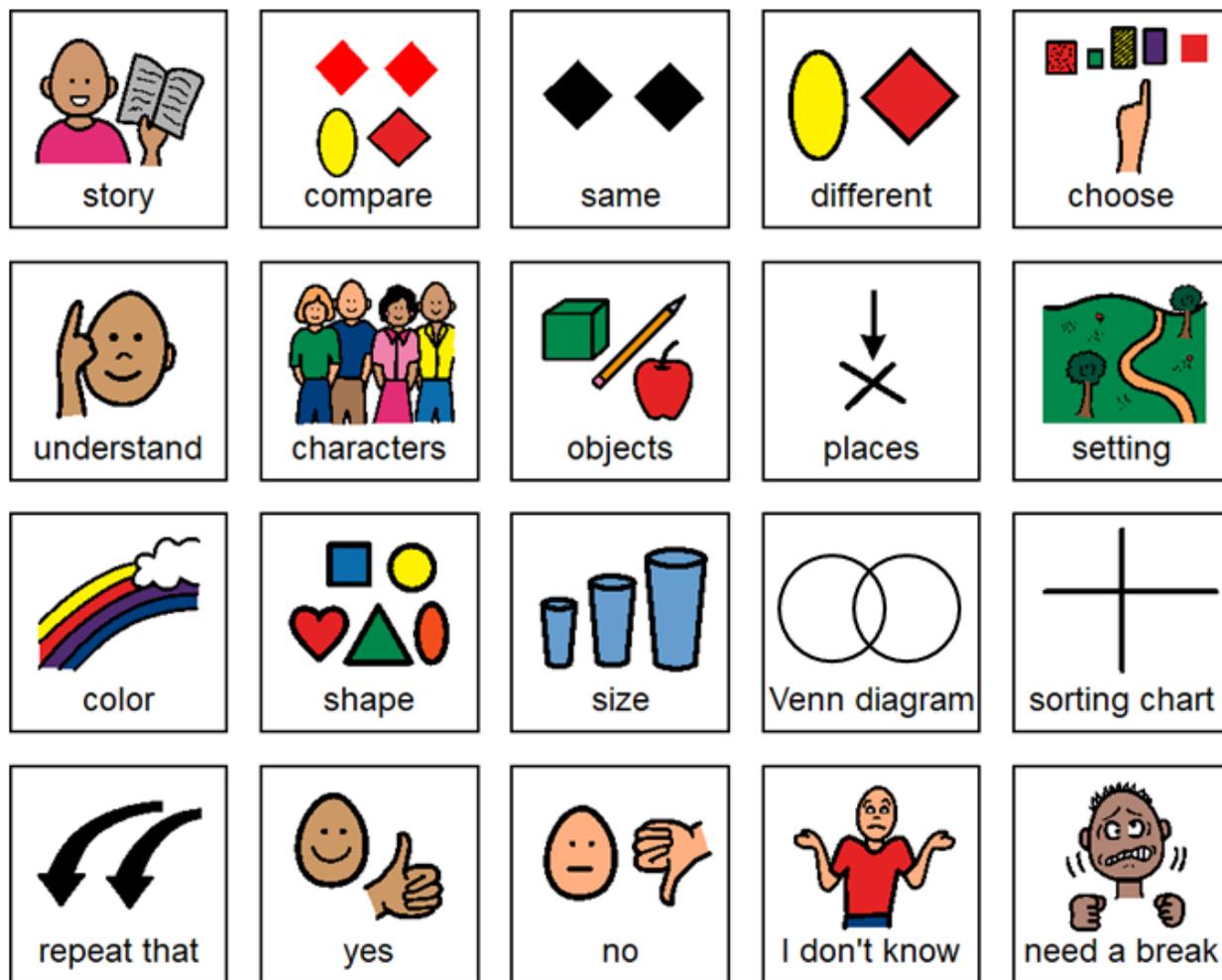
A quick look at what you will do each day

## Day 10-14

Activity	Notes	Materials
Read or listen to a recording of the book (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read through the story, asking lots of questions</li><li>• Continue to make connections between book and vocabulary board</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocabulary board</li></ul>
Group activity (10 min)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Choose one of the group activities (<i>see separate pdf</i>)</li><li>• See separate pdf for directions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Depends on activity chosen</li></ul>
Review from yesterday (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review the worksheet completed yesterday</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Worksheet completed yesterday</li></ul>
Compare 2 objects from a <i>story</i> (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do the one of the worksheets where students <b>compare</b> two objects using a Venn diagram <b>from a story provided</b></li><li>• Choose the Venn diagram that is the best fit for your students (you can send the extra one home for practice)</li><li>• A color-coded option is provided for students who need more support</li><li>• Make connections to the book as necessary</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Worksheet</li><li>• Scissors</li><li>• glue</li></ul>
Sharing (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each student shares their finished worksheet with the group using the communication method of their choice</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Completed worksheet</li><li>• Communication devices</li></ul>

The lesson plans contain:

Detailed instructions on how that day's lesson should run



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This unit comes with a vocabulary board.

Vocabulary boards are great for ALL students to assist with participation and engagement in group discussions.

Tips on how to use included in the unit!!

How do these two raincoats compare?



- Pink
- Hat
- Buttons
- Long sleeves

**different**



- Keep you dry
- Wear in the rain
- Wear over your clothes

**the same**



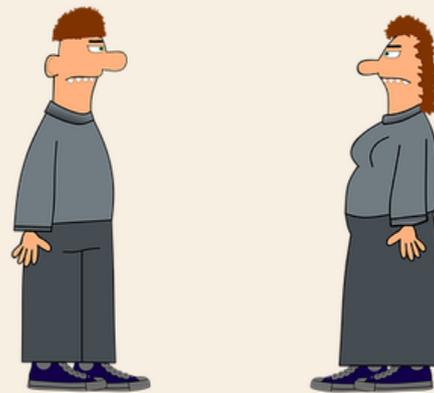
- Clear
- Zipper
- No sleeves

**different**



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If they ask you to compare 2 or more things, then they want to know how things are alike and different.



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There is a book with this unit using simple text and photos. It is 30 pages and reviews how to compare and contrast things in real life and in a story and why it is important.

It comes in pdf versions as well as a voice-recorded PowerPoint and movie file (so you don't have to print it out.)

## GROUP ACTIVITIES TO PRACTICE COMPARING AND CONTRASTING

### What is in the box?

#### Here is what you will need:

- Cardboard box
- Common objects

#### How to play:

- Tell students you have an object in the box that they will try and use clues to guess what it is
- Gives lots of comparison and contrasting clues
- Keep a running list of clues on the board
- Optional: students can ask questions. Be sure to answer in the form of a comparing or contrasting detail. For example, if they ask what color it is, you could say it is the same color as a pepper or it is a different color that you find in a stoplight.

### Same or different competition

#### Here is what you will need:

- Hold up 2 objects
- Large activity cards

#### How to play:

- Break into teams of 2
- Place two objects on the table along with either a same or different card
- Have students list as many things that are the same or different (depending on the card) about the 2 objects.
- Team with the longest list wins.

### Large activity cards

- **There are 4 different games listed on the first page of the pdf with the large activity cards.**

### Tell a story

#### Here is what you will need:

- Pictures from magazines, you will need at least 2 pictures per group

#### How to play:

- Break the group into 2 groups
- Give students the pictures.
  1. Come up with a story (not just a list of features) about the two pictures
  2. Group 1 tells group 2 their story.
  3. Group 2 will list all the things that are the same, different, or both about the two subjects of the story.
  4. Groups swap tasks.
- NOTE: You can model this by making yourself one of the groups. So, you can make up the story and you list the same or different features. Or you can have students choose the pictures, and you make up the story. They will then compare/contrast the 2 main subjects.

### How comparing and contrasting helps you make decisions

#### Here is what you will need:

- Visual of 2 things highly desirable to students

#### How to play:

- Explain you will need to make a choice between these two objects.
- What things would you want to know to make the decision easier?
- Make a T-chart listing out the answers to their questions.
- Look at results and decided if this helped you make a decision.

### How comparing and contrasting helps you learn something new

#### Here is what you will need:

- Find an object that students do not know what it is.
- I like to use a tool or kitchen gadget for this.

#### How to play:

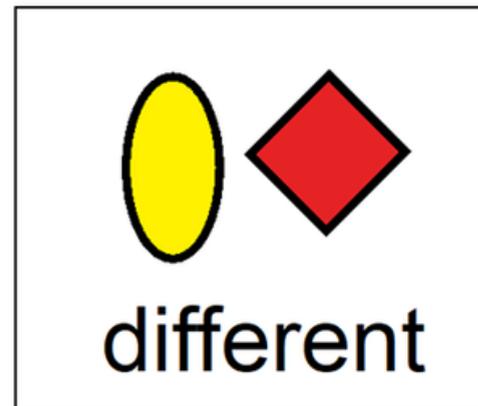
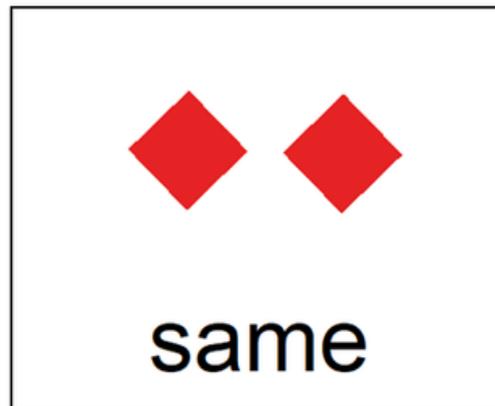
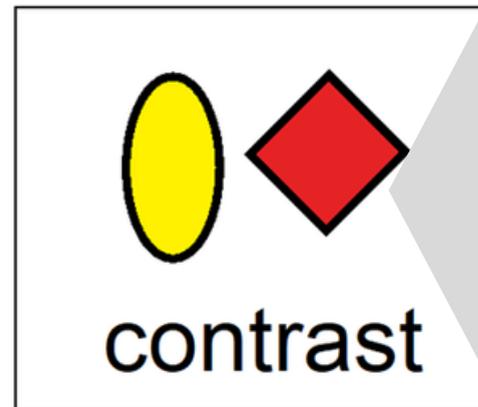
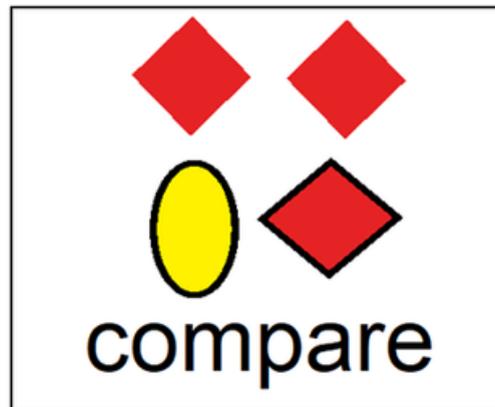
- Either have students ask questions about the object or give them clues in the form of something it is the same or different as.
- This is similar to the What is in the box game except the object is visible and unknown to the students.

There are group activities that you can incorporate as part of the daily lesson.

## Large cards

- Give each student a set of 4 cards
- Things you can do:
  - Hold up two objects and name a feature. Students will hold up the compare or same card if it is a feature both objects have. Students will hold up the contrast or different card if it is a feature only one object has.
  - Hold up two objects. Ask students, "What would you do if I asked you to describe the color of these 2 objects." Students will hold up the compare card if the feature is the same for both objects. Students will hold up the contrast if the feature is different for both objects.
  - Place cards face down on table and let student pull a card. Student then either compares or contrasts 2 objects you have.
  - You describe two characters comparing them or contrasting them.

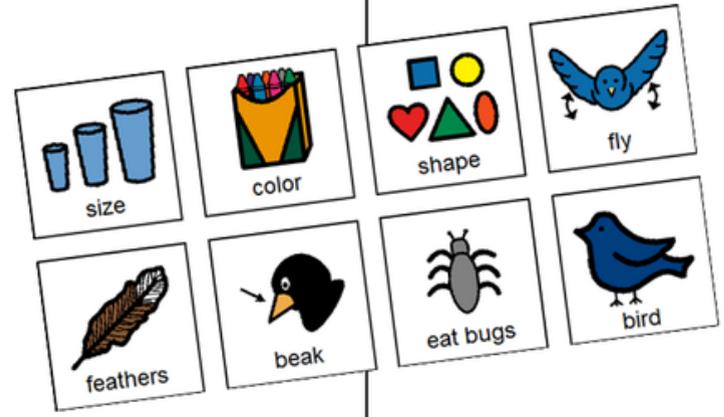
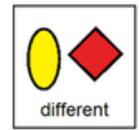
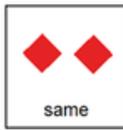
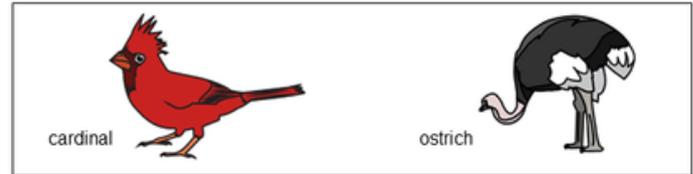
Large cards for group activity



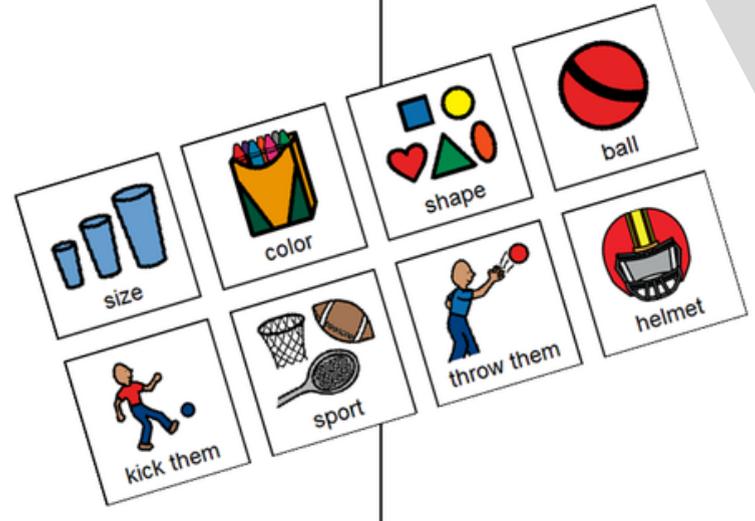
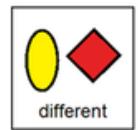
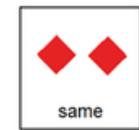
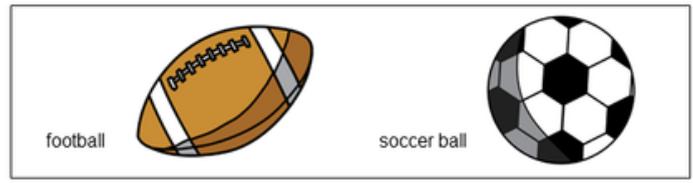
There are large cards to use with group activities. They come in color and black and white.

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# 4 worksheets

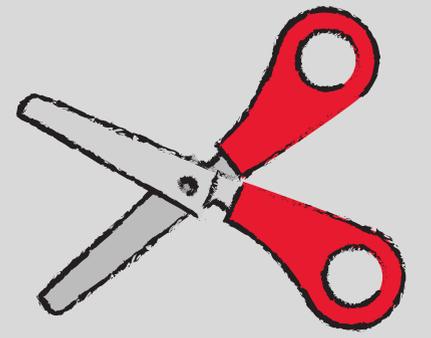


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Students will first look at two objects and identify how they are alike and different using a T-chart. Suggestions for differentiation are included.



# 3 worksheets

banana

green pepper

yellow

fruit

peel

crunchy

put on pizza

green

vegetable

grow in tree

put on cereal

grow on plant

sweet

seeds

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garage

house

cars

bike

bathtub

tools

blender

bunk beds

motorcycle

couch

gas

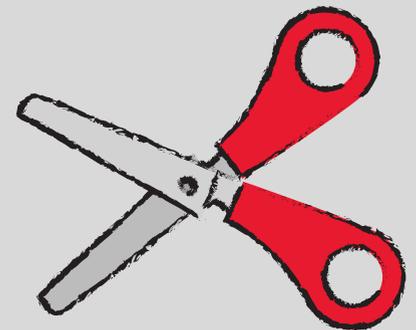
band saw

spatula

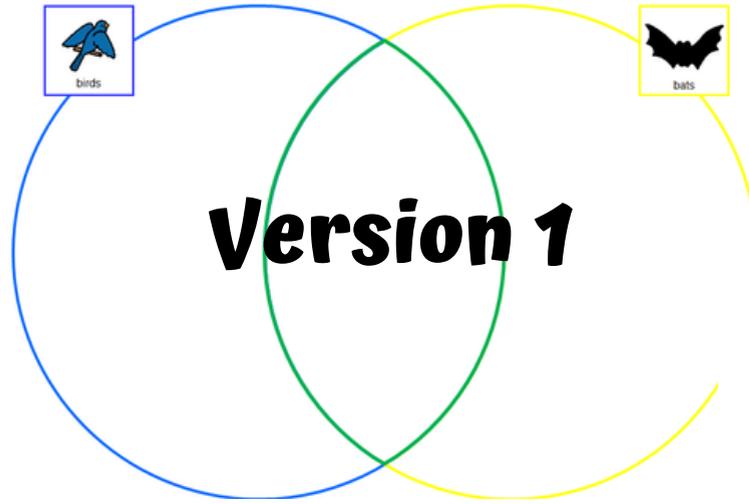
dresser

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Next, students will identify what is different between 2 objects using a T-chart. Suggestions for differentiation are included.



Use the pictures on the next page to complete the Venn diagram below showing how the 2 objects are the same and different.



# Version 1

eat insects	nest	lay egg	have live babies
mammals	nocturnal	fly	spend time in trees
awake in day	may live in a house	feathers	bird

# 3 worksheets

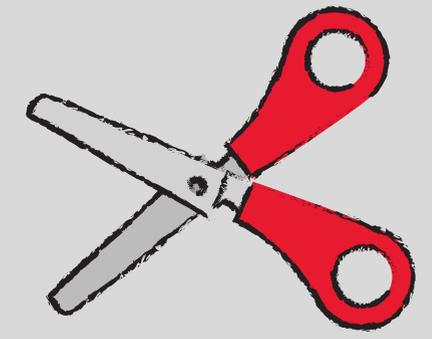
Use the pictures on the next page to complete the Venn diagram below showing how the 2 objects are the same and different.

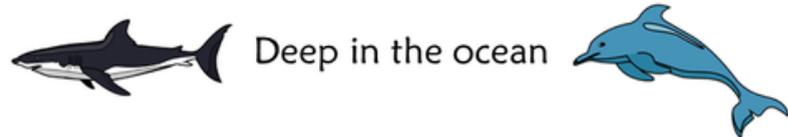


# Version 2

eat insects	nest	lay egg	have live babies
mammals	nocturnal	fly	spend time in trees
awake in day	may live in a house	feathers	bird

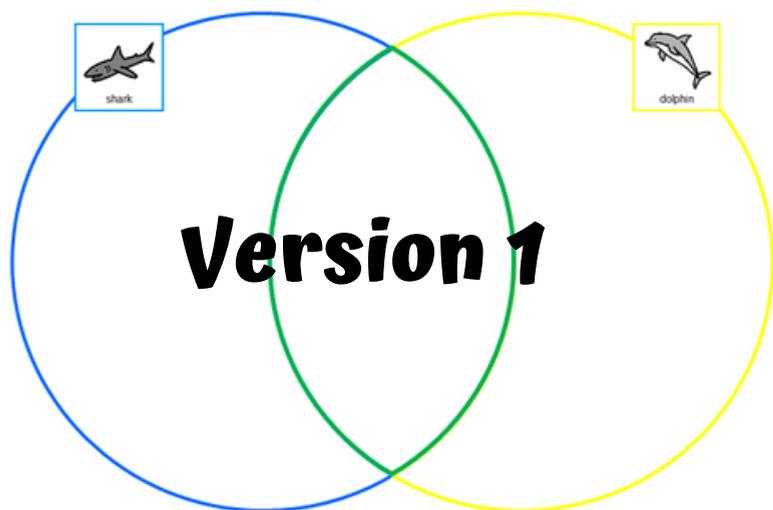
Next, students will compare 2 objects using a Venn diagram. There are 2 versions included. There is also a color-coded option provided.



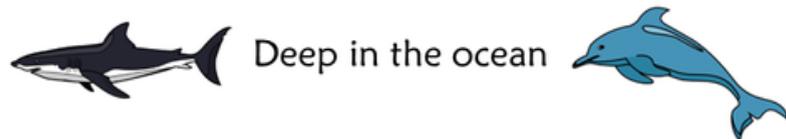


Far out in the Atlantic Ocean were 2 good swimmers looking for food using their strong senses. Sammy the shark was looking for some fish to catch and eat with his sharp teeth. His fins helped him steer, and his tail go could up and down. Since he was a fish, he could breathe under water using his gills. He liked to live and hunt alone, unlike his friend Donny the dolphin.

Donny was also a good swimmer but liked to live and hunt in groups. His teeth were much smaller, but he was still on the hunt for some smaller fish for dinner. His fins helped him steer, and his tail moved side to side. Donny needed air to breath because he as a mammal.

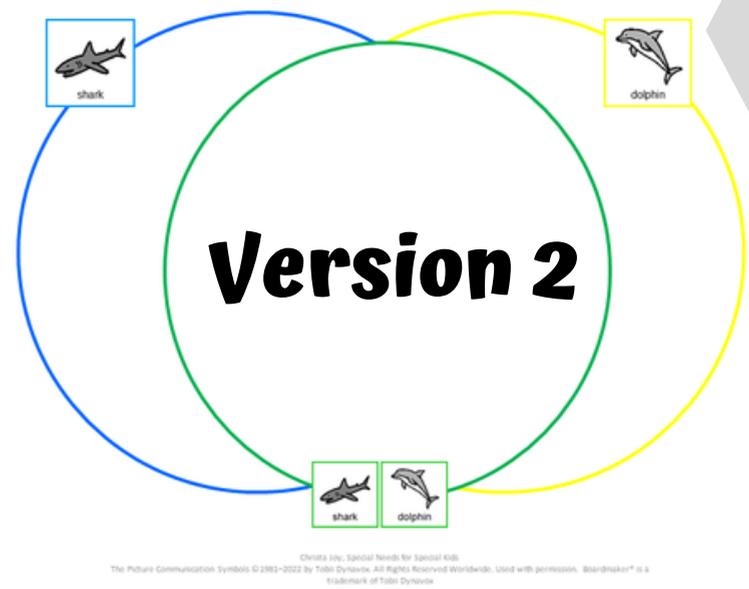


# 5 worksheets

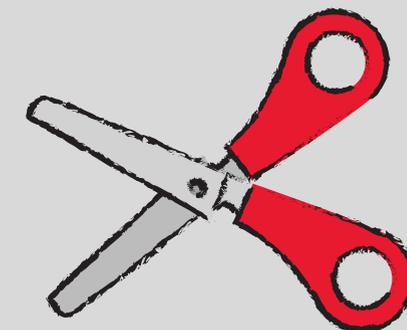


Far out in the Atlantic Ocean were 2 good swimmers looking for food using their strong senses. Sammy the shark was looking for some fish to catch and eat with his sharp teeth. His fins helped him steer, and his tail go could up and down. Since he was a fish, he could breathe under water using his gills. He liked to live and hunt alone, unlike his friend Donny the dolphin.

Donny was also a good swimmer but liked to live and hunt in groups. His teeth were much smaller, but he was still on the hunt for some smaller fish for dinner. His fins helped him steer, and his tail moved side to side. Donny needed air to breath because he as a mammal.



Finally, students will compare 2 things from a short story. There are 2 versions of the Venn diagram included. There is also a color-coded option provided.



sharp teeth	gills	ocean	friendly	eat fish
fins	type of fish	type of mammal	breath air	live in groups
live alone	tails go up and down	tails go side to side	good swimmers	strong senses

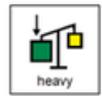
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## Compare and Contrast Quiz

1. **Comparing** 2 things in a story means you find the things that are: (circle all that are true)



2. **Contrasting** 2 things in a story means you find the things that are: (circle all that are true)



3. If you are using a Venn diagram to compare 2 things, what goes in the middle section?



4. Comparing and contrasting helps us do what?



5. True or false. We compare and contrast things in our daily life a lot.



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## Compare and Contrast Quiz

- Comparing** 2 things in a story means you find the things that are: (circle all that are true)
  - Same
  - Different
  - Balanced
- Contrasting** 2 things in a story means you find the things that are: (circle all that are true)
  - Same
  - Different
  - Heavy
- If you are using a Venn diagram to compare 2 things, what goes in the middle section?
  - Things same
  - Things different
  - Anything
- Comparing and contrasting helps us do what?
  - Sleep
  - Cook
  - Make choices
- True or false. We compare and contrast things in our daily life a lot.
  - True
  - False
  - I don't know

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FINALLY, there is a 5 question quiz. It comes in this version with pictures and one that is traditional multiple choice.

Answer key included.

# Compare & Contrast

A Reading  
Strategy



By Christa Joy

Listen to  
the book  
read aloud

This unit has digital  
versions of the  
activities as well.  
There is a movie  
version of the book  
students can watch.

Put the pictures on the correct location in the Venn diagram showing how the objects are the same and different.

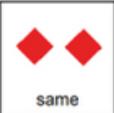
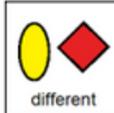
leash    inside    hurt for food    den

outside    forest    bark/howl    fur

dog food    tail    canine family    pet

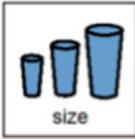
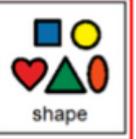
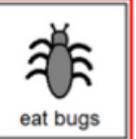
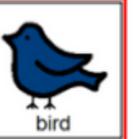
dog house    meat eaters    wild animal

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 same	 different

cardinal    ostrich

Look at each characteristic below. Is it the same or different for both objects shown above. Place them in the correct column. If you are not sure, leave it on this side.

 size	 color	 shape	 fly
 feathers	 beak	 eat bugs	 bird

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There are 2 sets of slides. One set has no differentiation. Students will click and drag the answers into the empty boxes.



garage



house

Place the pictures in the correct column depending on the object it describes. If you are not sure, leave it on this side.

 cars	 bike	 bathtub	 tools
 blender	 bunk beds	 motorcycle	 couch
 gas	 band saw	 spatula	 dresser

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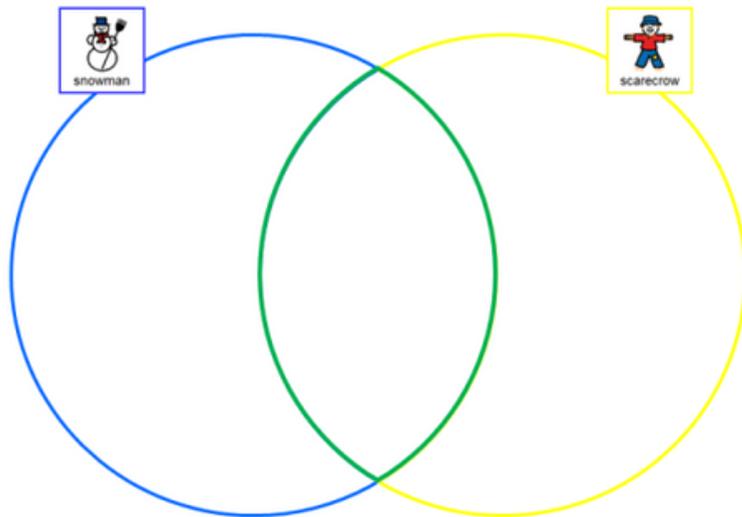
The second set has color-coding for differentiation. Students click and drag answers. There are a total of 17 slides in each set.

Out in the snowy field, you will find 2 unlikely friends standing side by side. They are a snowman and a scarecrow left over from the fall. They both are wearing a hat and scarf. They both have a crooked nose. The snowman is totally white, with sticks for arms and has a friendly smile. The scarecrow has metal barbs in his mouth, so he looks scary enough to keep away the crows.



2 unlikely friends

1. Read or listen to the story.
2. Place the pictures in the correct location on the Venn diagram depending on which character it is describing, or if it is describing both.



 white	 in field	 scary	 hat
 scarf	 crooked nose	 metal mouth	 friendly
 sticks	 crows		

Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids  
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I realize there will be some students out there unable to do cutting activities. I have a blog post with ways to complete activities without a pair of scissors!!

[Click Here to read more!!](#)