

Comparing

REM 490

A TEACHING RESOURCE FROM...



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INTRODUCTION

How are alligators and crocodiles alike? How are they different? What did the pilgrims and pioneers have in common? The exercises in this book provide valuable practice in the reading skill that emphasizes identifying specific information in the text in order to make comparisons and draw conclusions. Students will become careful and critical readers as they enjoy the high-interest, fact-based stories about an expansive array of subjects.

A comparison sheet that can be reproduced for use with each lesson is provided. An answer key is also included.

Comparing was designed for use in grades 5-8. Readability is on the 3rd-4th-grade level.

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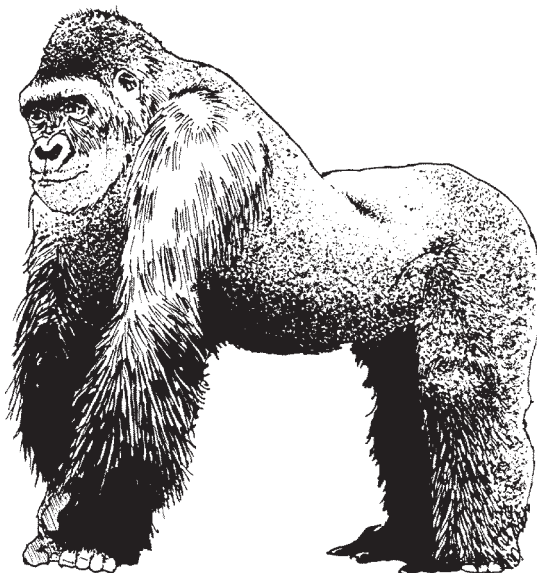
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GREAT APES

The male can weigh 350-650 pounds. He stands six feet tall. But he is really a gentle animal. He is the gorilla. **Gorillas** are members of the Great Ape family. They live in warm, damp forests in Central Africa. Unlike in the movies, they do not eat people. They eat roots, fruit, leaves, bamboo shoots, and tree bark. Gorillas live in groups of six to 30. There is one male gorilla in each group. Because they are so heavy, gorillas spend most of their time on the ground. They sleep in nests. Sometimes, the female will build her nest in a tree.

Gorillas are the largest of the primates. Man and monkeys are also primates. The gorilla usually walks on all fours. He can live to be 25 years or older. Gorillas like to stay together. They will often groom each other. They seldom fight with each other. They will not attack unless they are really angry. But they are very strong, so it's not wise to make them angry.

It is not easy to keep gorillas well in the zoo. They don't like to be in cages. It makes them unhappy. Gorillas also can catch diseases from people. Gorillas are quite smart.



Some have been taught sign language. By using it, they are able to "talk" to humans.

Orangutans are the most endangered members of the Great Ape family. They live in rain forests in Sumatra and Borneo. These are islands north of Australia. The male orangutan weighs up to 200 pounds. He stands 4-5 feet tall. Orangutans live to be 25-45 years old. They usually travel alone. The full-grown male almost always is alone. The female will travel with her young. They travel alone so they can find more fruit, tree bark, buds, and leaves to eat.

Orangutans live in the trees. They sleep in nests. With their long, strong arms, they swing from branch to branch. But the real heavy males travel on the ground. Orangutans usually walk on all fours.

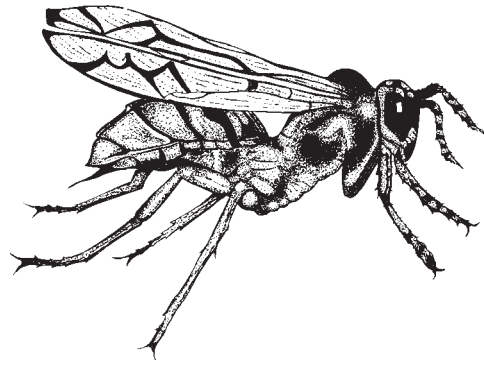
Orangutans get along well with each other. But they do not like life in the zoo. They do not like cages. Many have been able to open the bars with their strong arms and escape. Now zoos have built special places, without bars, for them. Orangutans can catch the same diseases as humans. Special care must be taken with these animals. Orangutans are smart. Some have been taught sign language. Others have been trained to play parts in the movies.

Use the **COMPARISON SHEET** to show the similarities and differences between gorillas and orangutans. Compare how they live, what they eat, and any other facts you have found.

BUZZING AROUND

The **bee** is an insect that lives in almost every part of the world. There are 10,000 different kinds of bees. But only the honeybee makes honey and wax. Honeybees are social insects. That means they live and work together in large groups. Thousands of them live together in a group called a colony. On its own, the honeybee does not live long. The colony can go on for years. Each colony has a queen bee. She lays eggs. The other bees in the colony are the workers and the drones. The worker bees provide food and shelter. They protect the nest, or hive. The drones mate with the queen. Then she can lay eggs and make more bees. The hive is built from beeswax. It is shaped into a waterproof honeycomb. The honeycomb is a group of six-sided cells. Pollen and nectar from flowers are stored in the cells. The nectar will turn into honey.

The honeybee has five eyes. It has antennae that it uses for smelling. It has four wings, and on each side of its body it has three legs. Bees can tell if a taste is sweet, sour, salty, or bitter, just like humans can. The worker bees are the ones that will sting you. The good news is the worker bee dies a few hours after losing its stinger. Drones do not



have stingers. The queen bee stings only other queen bees.

The **wasp** is one of the smartest insects. It is related to bees and ants. Wasps are social insects and live in colonies. There are queen, worker, and male wasps. Each has a different job to do. Hornets and yellow jackets are members of this wasp family. Most wasps have thin bodies with four wings. They can give painful stings. But they are not mean. They sting only when they are afraid or disturbed.

Wasps can make paper. They chew on old wood and plants until it is just like the paper on which this story is printed. It is said the Chinese invented paper after watching wasps. The wasps make their nest from this paper. The nest is made of rows of cells, like a honeycomb. Many layers of paper on the outside make it waterproof. A wasp colony lasts only through the summer. Most wasps do not store food. In the fall, they all die except the young queens. In the spring, she lays her eggs, and more wasps are hatched. Wasps are useful insects. They kill caterpillars and other insects that harm crops and plants.

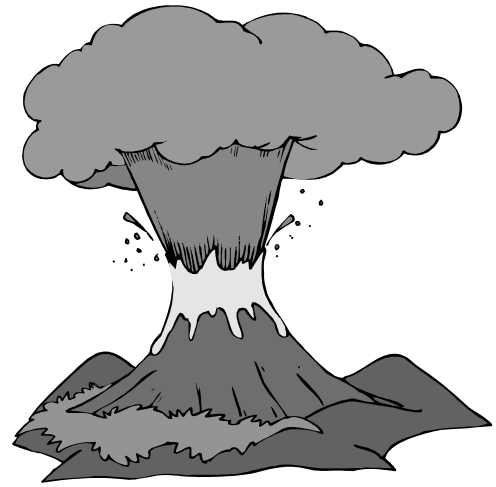
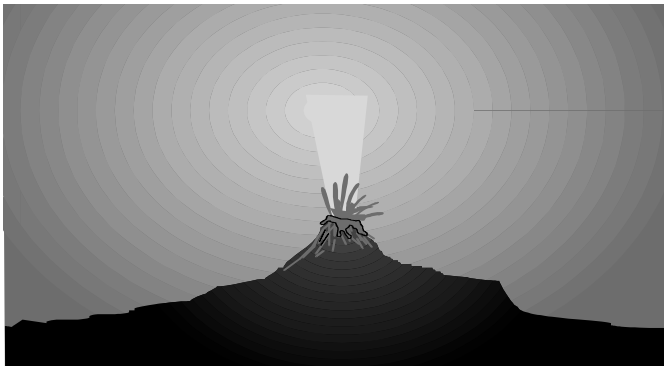


Use the **COMPARISON SHEET** to show the similarities and differences between bees and wasps. Compare their nests, the way they live, how they help man, and any other facts you have found.

EXPLODING MOUNTAIN TOPS

Vesuvius is the only active volcano on the mainland of Europe. It is inside Mount Somma near Naples, Italy. It is said that Vesuvius first erupted in prehistoric times. That would be way back when the dinosaurs lived. We know for sure that Vesuvius erupted about 2,000 years ago. The ashes and lava from that eruption buried three cities. One city was called Pompeii (pom-pay). Thousands of people died. There were many earthquakes before and after the eruption. Most of the city of Pompeii is still buried under all the ashes. Since then, Vesuvius has erupted many more times. In 1631, it killed more than 18,000 people. The last time it erupted was in 1944. The ash from the volcano spread for miles and miles.

Each time it erupts, the height of Vesuvius changes. In 1900, it was 4,275 feet high. After the eruption of 1906, it was only 3,842 feet high. The top of the volcano is a huge hole, called a crater. It is 400 feet across at its widest point. Vesuvius is an active volcano. Steam, cinders, and small amounts of lava are always being spit out of it. Even so, many people live along the lower parts of this mountain. The soil is very fertile. That means it is good for making things grow. This area is famous for the grapes it grows.



Vesuvius is watched carefully. It could erupt again at any time.

Mount Saint Helens is a volcano in the Cascade Mountains. It is 95 miles south of Seattle, Washington. In 1980, there was a huge eruption. That was the first time Mount Saint Helens had erupted in over 100 years. Since 1980, it has erupted several times. But these eruptions have not been as bad. In 1980, 60 people died. There was millions of dollars' worth of damage to the forest and nearby towns. It caused floods and mudslides in many places. Much of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana was covered with ash. The ash spread as far as the east coast of the United States. The damage was as great as when Vesuvius erupted in 79 A.D., but fewer people were killed. Just before the eruption, there were two big earthquakes. The eruption blasted 1,000 feet off the top of the mountain. There is a huge crater, or hole, at the top.

New plants and trees have grown back around Mount Saint Helens. The soil is very rich because of the ash that had settled there. People still live in towns near the volcano.

People who study volcanoes are keeping a close eye on Mount Saint Helens. It is an active volcano and will erupt again.

Use the **COMPARISON SHEET** to show the similarities and differences between Vesuvius and Mount Saint Helens. Compare their eruptions, how they are shaped, and any other facts you have found.