
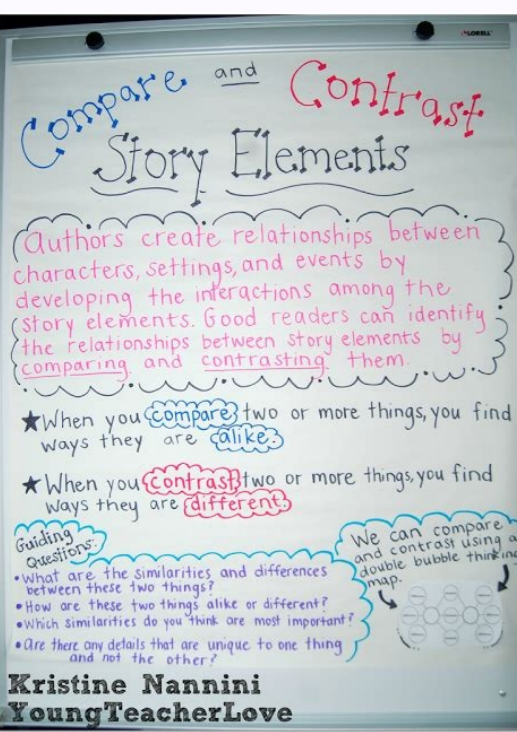


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Name: KY # 1

### Do Russians Celebrate the Same Holidays as the U.S.?

Patrick Foster was a member of the US Peace Corps who volunteered in Russia. Here is how he answered that question for students in Springfield, Missouri during an assembly at that school.

"In Russia, the greatest holiday of the year is New Year's, which is heavily celebrated all night. First you see a big dinner before midnight and then another after midnight. In the morning you see the 1200 year old tree for the New Year! New Year's is celebrated in family gatherings, but people also go out for parties on the night.

Christmas is also celebrated, not on December 25th but on January 7th, the Orthodox Christmas. Some other holidays include International Women's Day (March 8), in which all women are given a day off and they do not have to work at all. For the most part, these three are the biggest holidays. Of course there are others - like Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Independence Day.

It's not as easy to say which holidays are the "biggest" in America. This is because Americans include many more national holidays, and Thanksgiving. There is not a single holiday that (EVERYONE) in America celebrates. However, unlike New Year's in Russia, Christmas is probably the biggest holiday in the U.S. It is celebrated on December 25th and usually includes large family gatherings, meals, and giving out special gifts.

New Year's is a big holiday in the U.S., but probably not the "biggest." New Year's Day, in America, usually involves a quiet evening of music in major cities... just before midnight, the crowd starts cheer as a ball slowly begins to fall from a high building, signaling that a New Year has arrived. There isn't a standard time before and after the event, as there is in Russia. However, it is tradition for people to watch the Tournament of the Roses Parade on New Year's morning and eat breakfast and brunch on New Year's Day.

Some other holidays celebrated by many people in America are the 4th of July (Independence Day), Thanksgiving, and Easter. Many of the holidays in America are based on religious or historic events in our nation's history. In contrast, Russian holidays seem to honor the everyday lives and values, as well as remembering those who have passed. While they both celebrate different holidays, people from both countries truly look forward to the holidays of their nation."

**Answer Comprehension**

- The genre of the selection is most likely:
  - Historical Fiction
  - Biography
  - Nonfiction Article
  - Science Fiction
- Who is the author of the article?
  - An American who volunteered in Russia.
  - A Russian student who volunteered in the U.S.
  - A child from Springfield, Missouri.
- The best meaning for the word "greatest" as it is used in the 1st paragraph is:
  - the best
  - the largest
  - the best sounding
  - the best and best
- The word "celebrates" in the 2nd paragraph most likely means:
  - small meals
  - small parties
  - celebrates meals
  - celebrates parties
- The word "quiet" in the 3rd paragraph most likely means:
  - quiet or a little
  - without any noise
  - with soft music
  - with soft voices

**Read, Reread, and Contrast**

- What is the main idea of the article?
  - Russia and the United States celebrate the same exact holidays but in different ways.
  - Russia and the U.S. share some of the same holidays but celebrate them in different ways.
  - Russia and the U.S. have no holidays in common.
- What is one main similarity between holidays in Russia and America, as stated in the article?
  - The biggest holiday in both is New Year's.
  - The biggest holiday in both is Christmas.
  - Both countries celebrate Christmas.
  - Both countries celebrate New Year's.
- What is one difference between holidays in these two countries, as stated in the article?
  - Americans don't celebrate New Year's.
  - Russians don't celebrate Christmas.
  - Russian holidays are mostly religious.
  - The most popular holiday in Russia is New Year's, while Christmas is biggest in the U.S.
- This article is full of information about the history of the holiday, International Women's Day, in Russia, and most holidays in the U.S.
  - True
  - False
  - Probably
  - Almost

Circle all the words on the list of the page, comparing and contrasting holidays in Russia and in the United States of America.

## Compare & Contrast Notes

- Describes the similarities and differences between two or more things, places, events, ideas, and so on.

**COMPARE** → How are they the **SAME**

When you compare two or more things you find ways they are alike.

Clue Words:

In the same way	similar	The same as
Both	Like	In common
As well	Also	

**CONTRAST** → How are they **DIFFERENT**

When you contrast two or more things, you find ways they are different.

Clue Words:

Differ	Difference	However
But	Although	Even though
On the other hand	while	

You can compare and contrast two things by using a Venn diagram or T chart.

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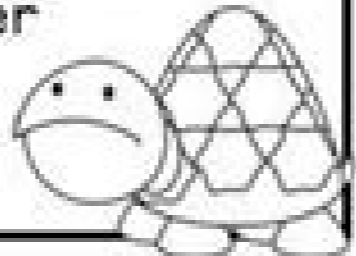
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# The Turtle and the Rabbit

There once was a turtle and a rabbit that lived in the forest. The rabbit knew she was faster than the turtle. She asked the turtle to race her. The turtle said no at first, because he knew he was much slower than the rabbit. But Turtle wanted to be brave, so he said yes. The rabbit laughed because she knew she would win. The day of the race, the turtle and the rabbit came to the starting line. Once they started, Turtle walked and Rabbit ran as fast as she could. Rabbit was so far ahead after ten minutes that she sat down for a nap. Turtle knew he didn't have time to nap, even though he was tired.



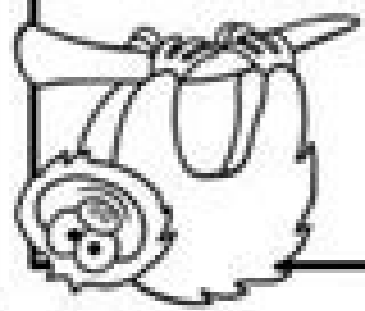
He kept on walking. When Rabbit woke up from her nap, she saw that Turtle was at the finish line.



Slow and steady wins the race!

# The Sloth and the Toucan

Toucan knew that sloths were very slow and Toucan loved to win games. So, Toucan asked Sloth if he wanted to race. Sloth knew this was a crazy idea because he didn't like moving. Toucan said, "Let me make it easy for you. The first animal who can make it to the forest floor wins!" Sloth looked down and saw how far up in the tree he was, but he wanted to try. Sloth said yes. They started their race. Toucan wanted to show off to all their friends, so she flew high up in the air and did a few flips. Sloth slowly made his way down the tree, looking for branches and twigs to hold on to. Up in the sky, Toucan stopped flipping and looked for sloth. Uh oh. He was lost. He must have flown too far. When he finally found his way home, he noticed that Sloth already won.



Uh oh. He was lost. He must have flown too far. When he finally found his way home, he noticed that Sloth already won.



©Totin, May 2015

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_

2.RL.1 Compare and contrast the most important points made by two texts on the same topic.

Read both texts about pigs. Compare and contrast the important points each author made.

<p><b>Text #1</b> <b>"All About Pigs"</b></p> <p>Pigs are smart animals. Like humans, pigs are omnivores, meaning they eat both plants and animals. Pigs have poor eyesight, but they have an excellent sense of smell. A pig's nose is an important tool for finding food in the ground. There are 1 billion pigs all over the world. China has more pigs than all other countries. People farm pigs for meat such as pork, bacon and ham. Some people like to keep pigs as pets. Fully grown pigs can weigh between 300 and 700 pounds. One pig can weigh as much as four people! Pigs like to wallow in mud all the time. They have different colors, sizes and shapes that mean different things.</p>	<p><b>Text #2</b> <b>"My Pigs"</b></p> <p>Pigs are not as dirty as many people think. They are thought to be dirty because they like to roll in mud to cool off. Pigs that live in cooler places dig very clean. Pigs are also known as piggy banks. Many pigs are called hogs and some pigs are called boars. Pigs have tusks that help them dig in the ground. They also have sharp teeth that help them dig and fight. Farmers often remove the tusks because they can be dangerous. Pigs are found all over the world. People use pigs for lots of things. Do you like pork chops or bacon? Then you are eating pig. Pigs are also used to make pork, leather and glue. Pigs are very smart. They're smarter than dogs!</p>
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How are these texts alike (the same)?

In both texts, \_\_\_\_\_

In both texts, \_\_\_\_\_

How are these texts different?

In one text, \_\_\_\_\_

In one text, \_\_\_\_\_

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With Google Forms, resources are self-taught! An excellent way to review the text structure of non-fiction, which includes: compare / contrast, cause and effect, problem / solution, description, chronologic order and sequence. This activity can be used as a review station, test preparation, task or substitute. Included: 6 short passages of non-fiction. Print and Google Forms Documents. Reply KEYLIKED This product 4 Passages Download 3 This resource is 100% digital and paperless for Google Forms. Each page includes a passage over two historical figures. To obtain the Google Slides, click on this link: Bats Freebie 247 ProfessorShis Informational Text Freebie has a full week of activities along with the differential reading. This resource is agreed with the comparison of the comprehension of characteristics of Non-Fiction Text. 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