

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Compare and Contrast

Read the short story and answer each question.



Hurricanes - Storms from the Sea

Hurricanes are powerful storms that form over warm ocean waters. They grow larger as they move across the sea, gaining energy from the warm water below. Hurricanes bring strong winds, heavy rain, and dangerous storm surges that can flood coastal areas. These storms are huge—sometimes hundreds of miles wide. They move slowly, giving people time to evacuate before landfall. Hurricanes are tracked by satellites, and meteorologists use special models to predict their path. When a hurricane hits land, it can knock down trees, destroy buildings, and cause massive flooding. After the storm passes, clean-up and recovery can take weeks or months.



Tornadoes - Spinning Winds of Destruction

Tornadoes are fast, violent storms that form during severe thunderstorms. Unlike hurricanes, tornadoes form over land. They are made of swirling columns of air that stretch from clouds to the ground. Tornadoes are much smaller than hurricanes—often just a few hundred feet wide—but they are faster and more sudden. Winds can reach speeds of 200 miles per hour, causing serious damage in just minutes. Because tornadoes appear quickly, warning times are much shorter. People living in tornado-prone areas often have safety plans and shelters nearby to stay safe when storms strike.



Name: _____

Hurricanes - Storms from the Sea & Spinning Winds of Destruction

1. What do hurricanes and tornadoes have in common?

- A. They both form over oceans
- B. They both involve strong winds and can cause damage
- C. They both last for several weeks
- D. They both happen only in winter

2. How are tornadoes different from hurricanes?

- A. Tornadoes are slower and larger
- B. Tornadoes form over land and strike quickly
- C. Tornadoes bring flooding from the ocean
- D. Tornadoes last for months

3. Fill in the blank:

Both hurricanes and tornadoes are **dangerous storms**, but they form in different _____ and behave differently.

4. What are two similarities and two differences between hurricanes and tornadoes? Use information from both texts.

5. How does reading both passages help you better understand how to prepare for and stay safe during different types of storms?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: R

Lexile Level: 790L-940L

Grade Level: 4th Grade, Middle of the Year

Genre:

Introducing the Text

“Today we’re going to read two texts about extreme storms—hurricanes and tornadoes. As we read, we’ll compare how they form, how they behave, and how people stay safe during each one. Then we’ll talk about how combining both texts helps us understand storms better.”

Vocabulary: evacuate, meteorologist, funnel cloud, surge, damage

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you already know about hurricanes or tornadoes?
 2. What makes a storm dangerous?
 3. Have you ever seen a news report about extreme weather?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. How do hurricanes and tornadoes form?
 2. What warning systems or safety plans are used for each?
 3. Which type of storm gives people more time to prepare?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What are two ways the texts are similar?
 2. What information was new to you in each passage?
 3. How does reading both help you compare how these storms affect people?
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Activity Idea

Have students create a side-by-side infographic titled “Hurricanes vs. Tornadoes” with labeled boxes showing how each storm forms, how big it is, how fast it moves, and how to prepare. Then they write a paragraph explaining why it’s helpful to compare both storms together.

