

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Structure Comparison

Read the short story and answer each question.



How People Around the World Get Clean Water

Clean water is something many people use every day without thinking. But for millions of people around the world, getting safe water takes creativity, technology, and hard work. The methods people use to get clean water often depend on where they live, how much water is available, and the resources they have.

In some rural areas, people collect rainwater from their rooftops. This water is stored in large containers and filtered before it is used for drinking or cooking. This method works well in areas with regular rainfall but may not be reliable during dry seasons.

In other parts of the world, especially cities, people get water through **pipéd systems** that carry water from rivers, lakes, or underground sources. These systems use treatment plants to remove dirt, bacteria, and chemicals. Though efficient, these systems are expensive and need constant maintenance.

In places where water is scarce or polluted, communities use **water purification devices** or **portable filters**. These tools allow families to clean water themselves by removing harmful bacteria. Some devices use sunlight to kill germs, which is especially helpful in remote areas without electricity.

Though the tools and methods are different, all of them aim to solve the same problem: giving people access to clean, safe water. By comparing these systems, we can understand how people adapt to their environment and solve real-world challenges.



Name: _____

How People Around the World Get Clean Water

1. How does the author structure the information in this passage?

- A. The author compares different ways people access clean water in different regions.
- B. The author explains how rain falls and forms rivers.
- C. The author describes the life of a scientist who studies water.
- D. The author uses cause and effect to show how people get water.

2. What do the different methods of getting clean water have in common?

- A. They all provide clean water in different environments using available resources.
- B. They all use the exact same tools and systems.
- C. They are only available in places with high rainfall.
- D. They all require large cities and modern technology.

3. Fill in the blank:

In rural areas, people may collect and filter _____ water to use for drinking and cooking.

4. How does the compare-and-contrast structure help you understand the different ways people access clean water around the world?

5. What would be the best method for a dry area with no electricity? Support your answer with details from the text.



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: T

Lexile Level: 900L-1050L

Grade Level: 5th Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Informational – Environmental Science / Geography

Introducing the Text

“This passage compares different methods people use to access clean water around the world. Students will learn how to identify a compare-and-contrast structure and explain how this structure helps organize and clarify important concepts.”

Vocabulary: filtration, piped system, purification, bacteria, resources

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What are some ways you access clean water in your daily life?
 2. Why might some communities struggle to get clean water?
 3. What do you know about how water is cleaned before we drink it?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What methods of getting water are mentioned in the text?
 2. How does the author show the differences and similarities between regions?
 3. What challenges do some communities face when trying to get clean water?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How is the passage organized? What signal words help you identify this structure?
 2. Why is comparing different systems helpful for understanding how people adapt?
 3. How could this structure be used to explain another world issue?
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Activity Idea

Have students create a comparison chart with three columns: *Rainwater Collection*, *Piped Systems*, and *Portable Filters*. In each column, they will write how the method works, where it's most useful, and its advantages. Then, they will write a paragraph comparing the methods using transition words like *however*, *while*, and *both*.

