

THINKING WITH MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Video: Reptile Reunion

*Compare-Contrast Nonfiction Text Structure
(part-part)*

During a family trip to the zoo, Mariah saw many different types of amphibians, reptiles, insects, and mammals. Mariah enjoyed watching the different insects and animals of the rain forests the most. She especially enjoyed the chimpanzees and the jaguars. Before leaving the zoo her family stopped in the gift store. As Mariah wandered around she found a book all about animals of the rain forest. When she opened the book she noticed an article on sloths. Mariah recalled seeing these slow moving fur balls in the trees. As she read, she found that this text was a terrific example of Part-Part Compare-Contrast Nonfiction Text Structure.

Now it's **Your Turn!** Read ***Hanging Around With Sloths*** and create a *Think Aloud* and Graphic Organizer with your family or friends.

Then compare your group's thinking with **[Mariah's Think Aloud and Graphic Organizer](#)**.



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Before You Read:

Think about what you may already know about sloths.
Think about what you've learned about comparing and contrasting. Share your thoughts with your family and friends.

While You Read:

Notice signal words that can help you determine similarities and differences and highlight them in blue. Highlight the topics in orange, the differences in green, and the similar features in brown. (You may use any colors available to you – just remember your color scheme!)

After You Read:

- Think about the question, "How are the two-toed and three-toed sloths alike and different?"
- Discuss your ideas with your family or friends. Together, create a collaborative Think Aloud about how you used Compare-Contrast Nonfiction Text Structure to determine how two-toed and three-toed sloths are similar and different. Share your *thinking* with each other.

Hanging Around With Sloths

The world's slowest mammals hang from trees in the rain forest of Central and South America. With their long claws grasping branches, two-toed and three-toed sloths spend most of their time sleeping or motionless. Sloths expend very little energy in movement. They are able to fuel their low energy by eating a minimal diet consisting mostly of leaves.



Though the two types of sloths often live side-by-side, there are variations between them. They come from different families of edentates, or mammals having few or no teeth. Both families have three toes but the "two-toed" sloths have only two fingers. The two-toed sloth is bigger and moves more energetically between the trees than the three-toed sloth. The two-toed sloth also has six or seven vertebrae, whereas the three-toed sloth has nine. As compared to his three-toed neighbor, the two-toed sloth has a shorter neck, bigger eyes, and no tail. In addition, the two-toed and three-toed sloths are active at different times of the day and night.

The average lifespan for both kinds of sloths in the wild is 10-20 years. Only the two-toed sloth is able to survive in captivity.



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Making Sense of Literacy

Create a Graphic Organizer:

After you have determined the similarities and differences of two-toed and three-toed sloths, create a graphic organizer below to represent your thinking and to help you remember the author's main points.





Compare your Think Aloud with Mariah's Think Aloud:

Mariah's Think Aloud: I remember seeing sloths while we were walking around the zoo. They were really furry and didn't move much. "Hanging Around" makes me think of a tree and since that is where I saw the sloths, I bet that is where they spend most of their time! As I quickly skim the first paragraph, I notice that author compares two-toed and three-toed sloths because she says there are variations between them. I will create a *part-part compare contrast nonfiction text structure graphic organizer* to record what I learn. I will create two circles and record the types of sloths within each. To the left side of one I will record all the information unique to the two-toed sloths and to the right side of the other I will record information unique to the three-toed sloths. In between the two circles, I will put the features they share in common.

Right away I read that both types of sloths live in trees and call the rain forests of Central and South America home. I also notice that they have long claws that would be helpful for climbing trees. They sleep a lot and eat mostly leaves. When I read "two-toed and three-toed sloths" I understand that these are all similar traits are shared between both types of sloths. Since these are similarities, I will put them in the center of my graphic organizer to show both sloths share these features.

In the second paragraph I read, "there are variations." This helps me think that I am going to find some differences between the two types of sloths in this paragraph. Since both sloths are classified as "edentates," I record that between the topics as a similarity. Again I read "both." This signals a similar feature. They both have three toes? I will record that as a similarity, as well. That is strange since one is called the two-toed sloth. Oh, I see it has two fingers! It also says two-toed sloths are bigger and quicker. The -er ending signals contrasting information between the two sloths. That is helpful! In the next sentence, I see the word "whereas" and I know that word is going to signal another difference in the number of vertebrae. "As compared" and the -er endings on the describing words help me know two-toed sloths have a "shorter neck, bigger eyes, and no tail!" I'm inferring that the three-toed sloth has a longer neck, smaller eyes, and a tail! I record that information as differences for each animal. I also read that the sloths are active at different times. I record that information for both animals as a difference.

In the last paragraph, I notice they can both live for 10-20 years. I'll put this as a similarity. That's not long when compared to how long humans typically live. Finally, in the last sentence, I read the word "only" which helps me know it is only about one of the sloths. I read, "two-toed sloths can survive captivity." That information helps me think that the sloth I saw today in the zoo had to be a two-toed sloth because it was in captivity!

Hanging Around With Sloths

The world's slowest mammals **hang from trees in the rain forest of Central and South America**. With their **long claws** grasping branches, **two-toed and three-toed sloths** spend **most of their time sleeping or motionless**. Sloths expend very little energy in movement. They are able to fuel their low energy by **eating** a minimal diet consisting mostly of **leaves**.



Though the two types of sloths often live side-by-side, **there are variations** between them. They come from **different** families of **edentates**, or mammals having few or no teeth. **Both** families have **three toes** but the **"two-toed" sloths have only two fingers**. The **two-toed sloth is bigger and moves more energetically** between the trees **than** the three-toed sloth. The **two-toed sloth also has six or seven vertebrae, whereas** the **three-toed sloth has nine**. **As compared** to his three-toed neighbor, the **two-toed sloth has a shorter neck, bigger eyes, and no tail**. In addition, the two-toed and three-toed sloths are **active at different times of the day and night**.

The average **lifespan** for **both** kinds of sloths in the wild is **10-20 years**. **Only** the two-toed sloth is **able to survive in captivity**.



Compare your Graphic Organizer with Mariah's Graphic Organizer:

Mariah's Graphic Organizer: "Because the author is comparing and contrasting two-toed and three-toed sloths using part-part compare-contrast text structure, I am going to create a part-part compare-contrast graphic organizer to record my ideas."

Questions to Think About:

- How do *signal words* help Mariah make sense of the text?
- How does the *Part-Part Compare-Contrast Graphic Organizer* help Mariah determine important ideas?
- Why might this process help you make sense of text?
- When might this process be useful?

