

## Part-Part (Reptile Reunion) Practice Activities

### Crocodile or Alligator?

At first glance, it can be a challenge to tell crocodiles and alligators apart. Although they do share some of the same characteristics, scientists have placed them in two separate subfamilies because of some important differences.

Crocodiles have a narrow, tapered snout, shaped like a “v” . In comparison, alligators have a broad, rounded snout, shaped like a “u” . The crocodile has an upper and lower jaw that is about the same width. When its mouth closes, the upper teeth interlocks with the lower teeth, exposing them. The alligator, on the other hand, has a wider upper jaw than its lower jaw. When its mouth closes, the teeth in the lower jaw are almost hidden.

If you studied these two giant reptiles closely, you would notice more differences. Though the skin of both alligators and crocodiles is thick and bumpy, the skin color is different. Crocodiles are grayish green, whereas alligators are black.

**First, think about what you already know about crocodiles and alligators. After you finish thinking, read the individual passage, “Crocodile or Alligator?”**

**Next, based on these this passage, write a list of the major characteristics or important features of crocodiles. Then create a similar list for alligators.**

**Finally, create a “Part-Part Compare and Contrast Graphic Organizer” that helps you visualize how crocodiles and alligators are similar and different. This will help you remember the author’ s main points as you read.**

Compare your answers with **Sam's Think Aloud**.

### Compare-Contrast Text Structure

- A style of writing in which the author is able to show how two things are alike or different.

#### Alike

- When an author takes the time to compare the features of two or more things.
- When an author uses comparison signal words such as: like, too, both, or same as to show how two or more things are similar.

#### Different

- When an author takes the time to contrast the features of two or more things.
- When an author uses contrasting signal words such as: however, while, but, rather than, or adjectives that have - er, or - est endings to show that two or more things are different.

### Part-Part Compare and Contrast Graphic Organizer

- A type of Graphic Organizer that allows the reader to visualize the text structure being used by the author. **In this type of diagram two circles are drawn for each item being studied, however, instead of overlapping each other, the circles are separated from each other with a space in between them.**
- The area between the circles is set aside for ways the two things being studied are similar or alike.
- The area on the opposite side of both circles is set aside for ways the two things being studied are different.

### Part-Part Text Structure

- A style of writing that usually has information being presented on two separate things, however, instead of having two individual passages presented, part–part text structure has one passage in which the author goes back and forth within the text comparing and contrasting main points of each thing being studied.

### 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.

**First, think about what you already know about sloths. After you finish thinking, read the passage, "Hanging Around With Sloths."**

**Next, based on this one individual passage, write a list of the major characteristics or important features of two-toed sloths. Then create a similar list for three-toed sloths.**

**Third, highlight any signal words the author used to help the reader compare and contrast the information presented.**

**Finally, create a "Part-Part Compare and Contrast Graphic Organizer" that helps you visualize how two-toed and three-toed sloths are similar and different. This will help you remember the author's main points as you read.**

Challenge yourself by thinking of a topic involving two things that you are interested in studying. Create a "Part-Part Compare and Contrast Graphic Organizer" to show how the two are similar and different.

Compare your answers with **Mariah's Think Aloud**.