Dam Builders Compared

Track what each writer chooses to share.

ELA.3.R.3.3 "Compare and contrast how two authors present information on the same topic or theme."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a shared detail in each author's text, circle a detail only Mia gives, and write a 1 beside a detail only Carlos gives. These marks will help you compare how the authors present beaver dams.

Two Ways to Tell About Dams

1. Beavers are busy animals that live near ponds, streams, and rivers. They have strong teeth that keep growing throughout their lives. Beavers use their teeth to cut wood. Two writers, Mia Lee and Carlos Green, both explain how beavers build dams. Their texts share some facts, but each writer chooses different details and a different way to share them.

2. Mia Lee wrote a field-guide page called "A Beaver's Dam." She explains that a dam is a wall of sticks, mud, and stones. Mia tells readers that the wall slows moving water, making a deeper pond. She includes labels beside a drawing of the dam. Her clear facts and labeled picture help readers learn the parts and purpose of a dam.

3. Carlos Green wrote a short story called "Pond Repair." In his story, a young beaver hears water rushing through a broken dam. The beaver carries a muddy stick and presses it into the gap. Carlos describes the cold water splashing the beaver's fur. His action and sensory details help readers imagine why fixing the dam matters.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What building materials do both authors mention?

2. How does Mia present information about beaver dams differently from Carlos?

3. Name one detail Mia includes that Carlos does not. How does it help readers?

4. What action does Carlos's beaver take, and how is this different from Mia's presentation?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences comparing the two authors. Tell the shared topic, explain one way Mia presents it, and explain one way Carlos presents it.

ANSWER KEY

Dam Builders Compared

GRADE 3 · ELA.3.R.3.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a shared detail in each author's text, circle a detail only Mia gives, and write a 1 beside a detail only Carlos gives. These marks will help you compare how the authors present beaver dams. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What building materials do both authors mention?	**Both authors mention sticks and mud.**
2	How does Mia present information about beaver dams differently from Carlos?	**Mia uses facts and a labeled drawing, while Carlos uses a short story with action and sensory details.**
3	Name one detail Mia includes that Carlos does not. How does it help readers?	**Mia includes labels beside a drawing. They help readers learn the parts and purpose of a dam.**
4	What action does Carlos's beaver take, and how is this different from Mia's presentation?	**Carlos's beaver presses a muddy stick into a gap in the dam. Carlos shows an action in a story, while Mia explains facts.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Both authors explain beaver dams. Mia gives facts and a labeled drawing to teach how a dam works, while Carlos uses a story about a beaver repairing one. Mia helps readers learn information, but Carlos helps readers picture the work.

Accept comparisons that identify beaver dams as the shared topic and accurately describe Mia's factual, labeled presentation and Carlos's story-based presentation. Students may use other accurate details from the passage as evidence.