Text Structure Detectives

Find what each passage is doing.

5.3.R.7 "Students will distinguish the structures of informational texts: • compare/contrast • cause/effect • problem/solution • description • sequential"

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPARE AND CONTRAST

This structure tells how two things are alike or different. Look for details about both things.

A violin has strings, but a flute makes sound when air moves through it.

SEQUENTIAL

This structure tells what happens in order. Look for steps or events that come first and later.

To make a paper airplane, fold a sheet in half. Then fold down the top corners.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle the category for each passage; for Part 2, choose one item from each category and explain which details helped you decide.

1.	A desert gets little rain, while a rainforest gets rain almost every day.	COMPARE SEQUENCE
2.	A bicycle has two wheels, while a tricycle has three.	COMPARE SEQUENCE
3.	First, a spider spins a web's frame. Then it adds sticky threads to catch insects.	COMPARE SEQUENCE
4.	Both the Moon and Earth are rocky, but Earth has oceans of liquid water.	COMPARE SEQUENCE
5.	An acorn sprouts a root. Later, a stem grows toward the sunlight.	COMPARE SEQUENCE
6.	Workers collect used glass. Then they melt it and shape it into new jars.	COMPARE SEQUENCE
7.	A thermometer measures temperature, while a ruler measures length.	COMPARE SEQUENCE
8.	A map shows places on a flat surface, while a globe shows Earth as a round model.	COMPARE SEQUENCE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category and explain which details helped you decide.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new compare-and-contrast passage and one new sequential passage.

COMPARE

SEQUENCE

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences about the same topic: one that compares two things and one that tells what happens first and next.

ANSWER KEY

Text Structure Detectives

GRADE 5 · 5.3.R.7

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A desert gets little rain, while a rainforest gets rain almost every day.	**COMPARE**	It contrasts the amount of rain in two places.
2	A bicycle has two wheels, while a tricycle has three.	**COMPARE**	It contrasts the number of wheels on two vehicles.
3	First, a spider spins a web's frame. Then it adds sticky threads to catch insects.	**SEQUENCE**	It gives two steps in building a web.
4	Both the Moon and Earth are rocky, but Earth has oceans of liquid water.	**COMPARE**	It states a similarity and a difference between two objects.
5	An acorn sprouts a root. Later, a stem grows toward the sunlight.	**SEQUENCE**	It tells two growth events in time order.
6	Workers collect used glass. Then they melt it and shape it into new jars.	**SEQUENCE**	It gives steps in recycling glass.
7	A thermometer measures temperature, while a ruler measures length.	**COMPARE**	It contrasts what two tools measure.
8	A map shows places on a flat surface, while a globe shows Earth as a round model.	**COMPARE**	It contrasts how two models show places.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one item from each category and explain which details helped you decide.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **COMPARE**: A snail has a visible shell, while a slug has no visible shell.
- **SEQUENCE**: First, rinse the berries. Then, place them in a bowl.

Challenge: A hand lens shows fewer details than a microscope. First, place a leaf under a hand lens; next, move the lens until its veins look sharp.

Items 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 compare two things. Items 3, 5, and 6 give events or steps in order; for Part 2, accept explanations that identify those details.