Compare and Contrast

Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

Two Texts About the Grand Canyon

Text 1: The Grand Canyon is a giant valley in Arizona. It is about 277 miles long and more than a mile deep. In some places, it is eighteen miles wide. The Colorado River carved it slowly over millions of years. The rushing water carried away sand and rock, grain by grain. As the river cut deeper, it uncovered many layers of rock. The layers are red, orange, tan, and gray. Scientists study these layers to learn about Earth's past. The oldest layers sit at the very bottom. Some rocks hold fossils of shells and ferns. The river is still cutting deeper today, but very slowly.

Text 2: Millions of people visit the Grand Canyon each year. Most visitors stand at the rim and look out over the canyon. Some hike down steep trails to the Colorado River. The hike back up is hard, so rangers warn hikers to carry plenty of water. In summer, the bottom can be hotter than 100 degrees. Smart hikers start early in the morning, before the heat. Park buses carry people along the rim. A few visitors ride mules down the trails. Others float down the river on rafts. Many people say the colorful rock walls look different every hour as the sunlight changes.

1. Which place do both texts mention?

   the oldest rock layers a ranger station the Colorado River the state of Arizona

2. What do both texts say about the canyon's rock?

   It is colorful. It is very hot. It is studied daily. It is soft and sandy.

3. Which detail is only in Text 1?

   Some visitors float down on rafts.

   Rangers warn hikers to carry water.

   The oldest rock layers are at the bottom.

   The walls change as sunlight moves.

4. Which detail is only in Text 2?

   The bottom can be hotter than 100 degrees.

   The river carried away sand and rock.

   The canyon is over a mile deep.

   Scientists study the layers of rock.

5. How is the focus of the two texts different?

Text 1 is about visiting it; Text 2 explains how it formed.

Text 1 explains how it formed; Text 2 is about visiting it.

Both texts are mostly about how scientists study it.

Text 1 is about hiking; Text 2 is about rock layers.

6. Which text tells how deep the canyon is?

Text 1 neither text Text 2 both texts

7. Which text would best help a family plan a hike to the river?

Text 1 both texts neither text Text 2

8. What does "rim" mean in "Most visitors stand at the rim and look out over the canyon"?

a steep trail the river bank the deep bottom the top edge

9. Which claim does NOT appear in either text?

The Colorado River carved the canyon.

Scientists study the layers of rock.

Some visitors ride mules down the trails.

A train carries visitors to the canyon.

10. Text 1 says the river carved the canyon. What does Text 2 say some people do on the river?

ride mules across it study its rock layers float down it on rafts

measure how deep it is

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

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Text 2: Millions of people visit the Grand Canyon each year. Most visitors stand at the rim and look out over the canyon. Some hike down steep trails to the Colorado River. The hike back up is hard, so rangers warn hikers to carry plenty of water. In summer, the bottom can be hotter than 100 degrees. Smart hikers start early in the morning, before the heat. Park buses carry people along the rim. A few visitors ride mules down the trails. Others float down the river on rafts. Many people say the colorful rock walls look different every hour as the sunlight changes.

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The river carried away sand and rock.

The canyon is over a mile deep.

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