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

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

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

3. Which detail is only in Text 1?

   Rangers warn hikers to carry water.

   The oldest rock layers are at the bottom.

   Some visitors float down on rafts.

   The walls change as sunlight moves.

4. Which detail is only in Text 2?

   The canyon is over a mile deep.

   Scientists study the layers of rock.

   The bottom can be hotter than 100 degrees.

   The river carried away sand and rock.

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

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

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

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?

both texts  Text 1  Text 2  neither text

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

Text 2  neither text  both texts  Text 1

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

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

9. Which claim does NOT appear in either text?

Some visitors ride mules down the trails.

The Colorado River carved the canyon.

Scientists study the layers of rock.

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?

float down it on rafts  ride mules across it  measure how deep it is

study its rock layers

**Scan to get this marked free. No screen time for your child.**
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Answer Key - Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

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