

COMPARE AND CONTRAST 40**Stage 3: Comprehension**

Directions: Read the passage. Then fill in the Venn diagram and answer the question on the next page.

Hao Jin and Connor Bak

When I was in third grade, I got two pen pals and started writing to them. Their names are Hao Jin and Connor Bak. At first I thought these two boys were as different as any two boys could be. They are different, but they are alike in some ways, too.

Hao Jin is ten years old. He lives in a huge city in China called Shanghai. Every weekday morning he rides his bicycle to school. Millions of people live in the city of Shanghai, and many of them ride bicycles to their jobs in the factories.

Connor Bak is also ten years old. His hometown is quite different from Shanghai. Connor lives in Vidalia, Georgia. Unlike Shanghai, Vidalia is a small town with only a few thousand people. It is a farming town that is famous for growing sweet onions. Connor rides a school bus to school every morning and home every afternoon.

Both of my pen pals like some of the same things. Hao Jin and Connor both like to play soccer, and both like to watch movies. Both of them like to read comic books, too.

As you might expect, Hao Jin and Connor also have their differences. Hao Jin wants to be an astronaut someday and travel to Mars. Connor wants to be a famous movie star and travel to Hollywood to make movies.

I like both of my pen pals, and I enjoy getting their letters. Someday I hope to meet them both.

COMPARE AND CONTRAST 40

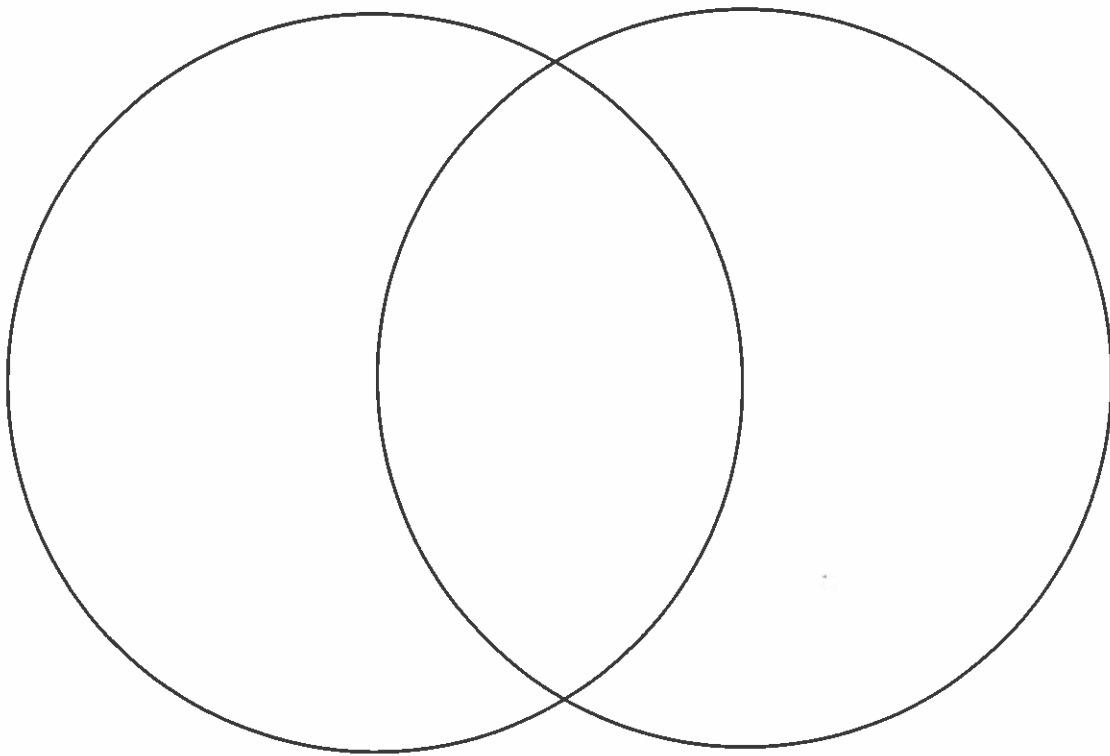
Stage 3: Comprehension (continued)

Directions: Fill in the Venn diagram with details from the passage. Then answer the question below.

Hao Jin

Both

Connor Bak



Describe two important differences between Shanghai, China, and Vidalia, Georgia.

COMPARE AND CONTRAST 54**Stage 4: Comprehension**

Directions: Read the passage. Then fill in the chart and answer the question on the next page.

Two Countries

Two of the most important countries in the world are India and China. We hear about them in the news quite often because their economies are growing rapidly. Both countries are in Asia, both have some very large cities, and both are growing fast. More than one billion people live in each of these countries!

India is a very old country, first established more than 4,000 years ago. In the 1800s, it was taken over by Britain. For this reason, there are many things in India that are similar to Britain. For example, many people in India speak English, and some Indians play uniquely British sports, such as cricket. Then, in 1947, India rebelled against Britain and became a free country.

Much of India is hot. But the Himalaya Mountains in the north are cold. These are the highest mountains in the world. They form part of the border between India and China.

Most of the people in India are Hindus who follow the Hindu religion. But there are many other groups of people in India. The country has sixteen official languages! The two most widely spoken languages are Hindi and English.

China is also a very old country. It was founded as a dynasty about 4,000 years ago. In land area, it is three times bigger than India. In ancient times, the Chinese were famous for producing silk and spices, and for developing many inventions. For example, they invented printing, gunpowder, the compass, and paper money.

Like India, China has many different groups of people. The largest group is made up of the Han people. The country has at least eight official languages, including Mandarin and Yue.

Both India and China have many different kinds of businesses and strong economies. China has many factories that make a lot of different products, such as clothing and furniture. The unit of money in China is the yuan. India has many kinds of businesses, too. One of their biggest is making and using computers. The unit of money in India is the rupee.

COMPARE AND CONTRAST 54

Stage 4: Comprehension (continued)

Directions: Fill in the comparison chart with details from the passage. Then answer the question below.

Country	Location and Geography	History	People and Languages
India			
China			

Describe two ways India and China are alike and two ways they are different.
