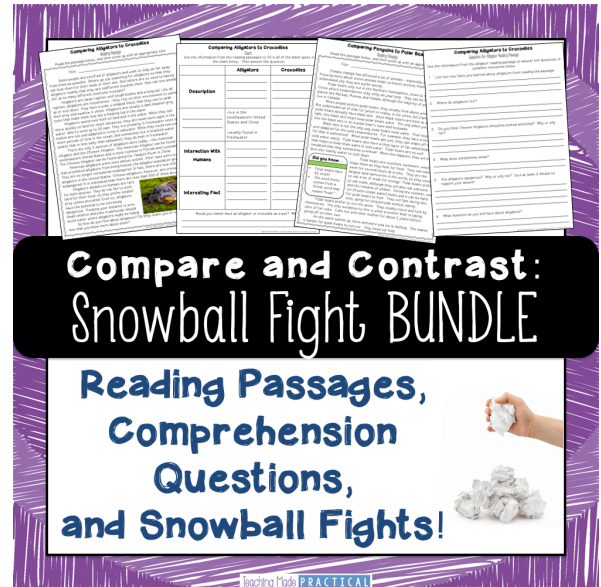


Thank you!

This is a free sample from my [Comparing and Contrasting Snowball Fight Bundle](#).

If your students like this activity, then they will also like the similar snowball fights in the bundle, covering a variety of nonfiction topics.



Or, buy the snowball fights individually.

[Bumblebee Bats and Vampire Bats](#)

[Penguins and Polar Bears](#)

[American New Year Vs Chinese New Year](#)

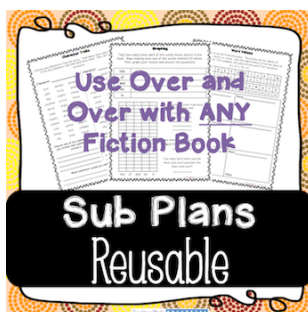
[Alligators and Crocodiles](#)

[Complete and Incomplete Metamorphosis](#)

[Camouflage and Mimicry](#)

[The House of Representatives Vs the Senate](#)

[Reptiles and Amphibians](#)



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Comparing Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Edison

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The snowball fight is a fun way to assess for student comprehension and to have students compare and contrast.

[You can find more ideas on using snowball fights in your classroom here.](#)

Comparing Franklin and Edison

Reading Passages and Questions

This section includes a one page reading passage about Benjamin Franklin with comprehension questions. There is another one page reading passage about Thomas Edison with comprehension questions. Some of the questions are open ended and do not have only one right answer.

Although the reading comprehension questions are not focused on comparing and contrasting, they will help students get a better grasp of the information in the reading passage so that they will be better able to compare and contrast.

Next, there is a chart for students to fill in about both passages to help them compare the two men.

Answer keys are provided, but a rubric might be the easiest way to grade these activities. A grading rubric has been provided on page 29.

Benjamin Franklin Reading Passage and Questions
Pages 4-5

Thomas Jefferson Passage and Questions
Pages 6-7

Chart
Page 8

Comparing Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Edison

Reading Passage

Read the passage below, and then come up with an appropriate title.

Title: _____

Have you ever seen the face on a \$100 bill? If so, you've seen Benjamin Franklin, one of America's Founding Fathers and a key person in US history. Franklin was not only a Founding Father, but he was also an inventor, author, diplomat, publisher, and politician. He was an excellent example of a Renaissance Man – a man with many talents and areas of knowledge.

Franklin was born on January 17, 1706 in Boston, Massachusetts. He was the 15th child of Josiah Franklin. When Franklin turned 8, he went to school, doing well in writing but struggling with math. He stopped going to school at the age of 10 to work in his father's candle shop. Benjamin Franklin loved learning, however, and he read constantly and taught himself different subjects even though he wasn't going to school.

Because Franklin loved to read, his father thought he would do well in the newspaper business. He sent Benjamin to work with his brother James at a printing shop. Benjamin and his brother had a rough relationship, but Benjamin used the skills he learned at the print shop throughout his life. He wrote books and articles, published newspapers and books, and even owned a printing house. People today still quote from Franklin's writings. "Early to

bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise," is a Franklin saying still quoted today.

Did You Know...

- Benjamin Franklin owned slaves, and his newspaper ran ads about selling slaves.
- Towards the end of his life, Franklin began to oppose slavery, arguing that slaves should be freed and educated.

Franklin wasn't just a writer and publisher. He was also an inventor and a scientist. He is well known for an experiment where he flew a kite in the middle of a storm. This led to the invention of the lightning rod, as well as a better understanding of the connection between lightning and electricity. Franklin also invented bifocals, something still used by people today.

His involvement in the founding of the United States of America might be his most important contribution to the United States, however. Franklin was the only Founding Father to sign the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Treaty of Paris – an agreement that ended war between the United States and Great Britain.

Benjamin Franklin helped change the world. Who knows how life would be different if this man of many talents had never lived?

Comparing Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Edison

Questions for Franklin Reading Passage

Use the information from the Benjamin Franklin reading passage to answer the questions in complete sentences below.

1. List two new facts you learned from the reading passage.

2. What is a Renaissance Man, and why is that a good description for Franklin?

3. Describe Franklin's childhood. Include at least 2 details from the passage.

4. What new information did you learn from the fact box?

5. What do you think was Franklin's most important contribution to the world? Why?

6. What question do you still have about Benjamin Franklin?

Comparing Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Edison

Reading Passage

Read the passage below, and then come up with an appropriate title.

Title: _____

Many people believe Thomas Edison was a genius. However, Edison believed his intellect was due to hard work and perseverance. Several quotes about not giving up are attributed to him. For example, "Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration." Edison's hard work paid off. Over 150 years after Edison was born, he is still a celebrated inventor and scientist.

Thomas Edison was born on February 11, 1847 in Ohio. He had 6 older brothers and sisters. He struggled in school, so his mother - a teacher - decided to teach him from home instead. He was a very curious child and taught himself a lot through reading and experiments. This love of learning and reading continued throughout the rest of his life.

His formal schooling with his mom didn't last long, however. When he was 12, Edison began working by selling newspapers on a local railroad. He even published his own newspaper, the *Grand Trunk Herald*. As Edison grew older, he shifted his attention to the telegraph - a device that could transfer messages over long distances. He became a telegraph operator, sending and receiving messages using Morse code. When he first began this job, the code was received on a strip of paper. This changed, and messages instead required the operators to listen to clicks. Edison was almost deaf, so this change that required listening to sounds made it hard for him to do his job.

Unable to do his job, Edison switched from being a telegraph operator to inventing ways to make a telegraph more useful and efficient. These inventions led to many other inventions, including the phonograph, alkaline storage batteries, and a camera for motion pictures.

Edison is probably most well known for his work with the light bulb. The light bulb had already been around before Edison, but his experiments made a light bulb safe and practical. He wanted to make electricity cheap so that everyone could use it.

Because of Edison's hard work, he helped to change the way the world communicates with each other. Although we no longer use many of Edison's inventions because they have since been improved upon, who knows where we would be without him having led the way?



A phonograph can record sounds and can play those sounds back.

Comparing Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Edison

Questions for Thomas Edison Reading Passage

Use the information from the Edison reading passage to answer the questions in complete sentences below.

1. List two new facts you learned from the reading passage.

2. Describe Edison's first two jobs.

3. Why did Edison stop being a telegraph operator?

4. What new information did you learn from the photo and caption?

5. Why does the author think Edison is an important person?

6. What question do you still have about Thomas Edison?

Comparing Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Edison

Chart

Use the information from the reading passages to fill in all of the blank spots in the chart below. Then answer the question.

	Benjamin Franklin	Thomas Edison
Education	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	-sold newspapers at a local railroad -published his own newspaper -telegraph operator -inventor
Impact on the World	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Interesting Fact	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Who do you think contributed more to the United States, Franklin or Edison? Why?

Comparing Franklin and Edison

Snowball Fight

Materials

- Reading passages (page 4, 6)
- 4 Signs – “Both Franklin and Edison,” “Benjamin Franklin,” “Thomas Edison,” and “Neither Franklin or Edison” - (pages 10 -13), posted in 4 corners of the classroom.
- Statement sheets (pages 14 - 27) cut in half, one half for each student
- Answer Key (Page 34)

Instructions

- Have students read the 2 reading passages and answer the questions.
- Give each student a half sheet of paper with a statement on it. Tell them to crumple it up like a snowball.
- Explain to students that they will be having a snowball fight. During the fight, they will throw paper snowballs at each other without running or yelling. When told to freeze, they need to stop the fight immediately.
- Begin the snowball fight, and stop it when appropriate.
- Have each student choose one snowball, open it up, and consider whether the statement is true for only 1 of the men, if it was a similarity between the two men, or if it was not true for either man. They should refer to the passages for evidence.
- Students should then go to the appropriate corner of the room, depending on their statement. For example, if they believe their statement applies only to Benjamin Franklin, then they should stand near that sign.
- Students can discuss whether they agree or disagree with the other students in their corner, and then repeat the game!

4 Signs
Pages 10 - 13

Statement Sheets
Pages 14 - 27

Both Franklin and Edison

**Benjamin
Franklin**

Thomas Edison

Neither
Franklin
or Edison

Read a lot

On \$100 Bill

**Mom was a
teacher**

**Invented
cell phones**

**Had older
siblings**

**Flew a kite
during a storm**

**Telegraph
operator**

Only child

**Struggled in
school**

**Founding
Father**

**Made light
bulbs safe and
practical**

**Born in
Texas**

**Famous
Inventor**

**Invented
bifocals**

Invented the
phonograph

Went to
college

**Published
newspapers**

**Signed the
Declaration of
Independence**

Published a
newspaper
called *Grand
Trunk Herald*

President of the
United States

**Changed the
world**

**Worked in a
candle shop**

Almost deaf

**Hated to
read**

**Experimented
with electricity**

Owned slaves

**Invented a
camera for
motion pictures**

Lazy

Comparing Franklin and Edison

Grading Rubric and Answer Keys

The grading rubric (page 29) can be used for all of the written activities.

Answer keys (pages 30 - 33) are also provided for all of the activities in this resource.

However, most of the writing activities will have answers that vary according to each student. You will have to assess many student answers on a case by case basis - which is why a rubric has been provided.

Grading Rubric
Page 29

Answer Keys
Pages 30 - 33

Comparing Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Edison

Grading Rubric

Student Name: _____

3 points

2 points

1 point

<u>Completeness</u>	All of the required work was completed.	Most of the required work was completed.	Very little of the required work was completed.
<u>Accuracy of Content</u>	All of the information the student included was accurate and correct. When relevant, the student defended their answers with evidence from the text.	Most of the information the student included was accurate and correct. When relevant, the student sometimes defended their answers with evidence from the text.	The student's answers are inaccurate and there is little or no evidence from the text included.
<u>Quality of Content</u>	The student's answers were thoughtful. The student included logical and interesting details.	The student's answers were expected. The student included predictable details.	The student's answers lacked thoughtfulness and details. The student answered with the minimum required.
<u>Conventions</u>	There are very few errors in spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar.	There are several errors in spelling, capitalization, punctuation, or grammar.	There are many errors in spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar. Because of these errors, the answers are very difficult to read.

Total Points out of 12:

Comparing Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Edison

Questions for Franklin Reading Passage

Use the information from the Benjamin Franklin reading passage to answer the questions in complete sentences below.

1. List two new facts you learned from the reading passage.

Answers will vary.

2. What is a Renaissance Man, and why is that a good description for Franklin?

A Renaissance man is a man that has many talents and areas of knowledge.

Franklin is a good example of a Renaissance man because he did a lot of things well – he was a scientist, inventor, politician, diplomat, author, and more.

3. Describe Franklin's childhood. Include at least 2 details from the passage.

Franklin went to school when he was 8 and he struggled with math. He stopped going to school at the age of 10 and went to work in his father's candle shop.

Later, he went to work for his brother at a print shop.

4. What new information did you learn from the fact box?

The fact box explained that Benjamin Franklin was a slave owner. In his later years, he opposed slavery and argued that slaves should be freed and educated.

5. What do you think was Franklin's most important contribution to the world? Why?

Answers will vary. The reading passage argues that Franklin's most important contribution was as a Founding Father and the signer of the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Treaty of Paris.

6. What question do you still have about Benjamin Franklin?

Answers will vary.

Comparing Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Edison

Questions for Thomas Edison Reading Passage

Use the information from the Edison reading passage to answer the questions in complete sentences below.

1. List two new facts you learned from the reading passage.

Answers will vary.

2. Describe Edison's first two jobs.

Edison's first job was a newspaper salesman on a local railroad and publisher of his own newspaper. His second job was as a telegraph operator, receiving and sending messages using Morse code.

3. Why did Edison stop being a telegraph operator?

Franklin was deaf, so when telegraphs switched from written codes to receiving messages by listening to sounds, it was hard for him to do his job well.

4. What new information did you learn from the photo and caption?

The photograph shows a picture of a phonograph, and the caption explains that a phonograph is a machine that can record sounds and play those sounds back.

5. Why does the author think Edison is an important person?

The author thinks Edison is important because he helped change how the world communicated with each other. He also made the light bulb safe and practical.

6. What question do you still have about Thomas Edison?

Answers will vary.

Comparing Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Edison

Chart

Use the information from the reading passages to fill in all of the blank spots in the chart below. Then answer the question.

	Benjamin Franklin	Thomas Edison
Education	<u>-went to school from age 8-10. He struggled in math.</u> <u>-read a lot, taught himself</u>	<u>-Struggled in school, so mom homeschooled</u> <u>-taught himself through reading and experiments</u>
Jobs	<u>-worked in candle shop</u> <u>-worked in print house</u> <u>-wrote and published books and newspapers</u> <u>-inventor</u>	-sold newspapers at a local railroad -published his own newspaper -telegraph operator -inventor
Impact on the World	<u>-wrote books and articles</u> <u>-invented lightning rod</u> <u>-Founding Father to the United States</u>	<u>-improved telegraphs</u> <u>-invented phonographs, alkaline batteries</u> <u>-made light bulb safe and practical</u>
Interesting Fact	<u>Answers Will Vary</u> _____ _____ _____ _____	<u>Answers Will Vary</u> _____ _____ _____ _____

Who do you think contributed more to the United States, Franklin or Edison? Why?
Answers Will Vary. Make sure students defend their answer.

Comparing Camouflage and Mimicry

Chart

Use the information from the reading passages to fill in all of the blank spots in the chart below. Then answer the question.

	Camouflage	Mimicry
Definition	-an adaptation that helps an animal blend in with its surroundings so it can hide from other animals	- an adaptation where an animal mimics a different animal in order to protect itself or attract prey
Why it is Useful to Predators/Prey	-predators can sneak up on their prey without being noticed -prey can hide from their predators	-predators can trick prey into coming to them -prey can trick predators into thinking they are dangerous
Animal Examples	-polar bear fur blends in with the snow -grasshopper blends in with the grass -copperhead snake blends in with rocks	-some flies, beetles, and moths are yellow and black like bees -anglerfish have a growth that looks like a worm
Interesting Fact	Answers Will Vary 	Answers Will Vary

Which do you think is more useful for animals, camouflage or mimicry? Why?
Answers Will Vary. Make sure students defend their answer. The passages
point out that camouflage is only useful in certain surroundings.

Comparing Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Edison

Snowball Fight - ANSWER KEY

Both	Benjamin Franklin	Thomas Edison	Neither
Read a lot	On \$100 Bill	Mom was a teacher	Invented cell phones
Had older siblings	Flew a kite during a storm	Telegraph operator	Only child
Struggled in school	Founding Father	Made light bulbs safe and practical	Born in Texas
Famous Inventor	Invented bifocals	Invented the phonograph	Went to college
Published newspapers	Signed the Declaration of Independence	Published a newspaper called <i>Grand Trunk Herald</i>	President of the United States
Changed the world	Worked in a candle shop	Almost deaf	Hated to read
Experimented with electricity	Owned slaves	Invented a camera for motion pictures	Lazy

Thank You!

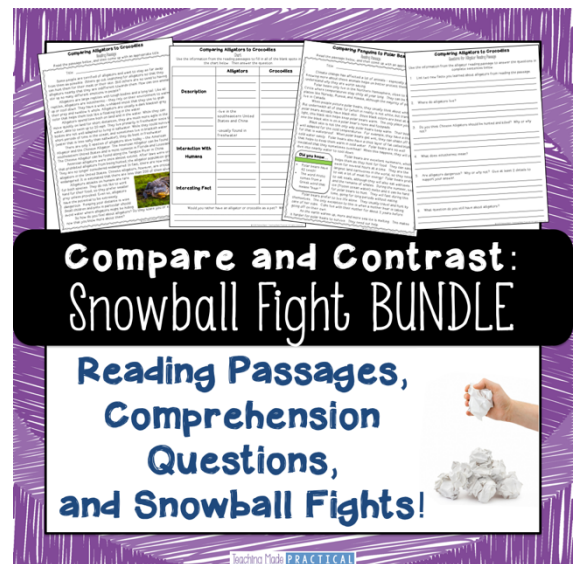


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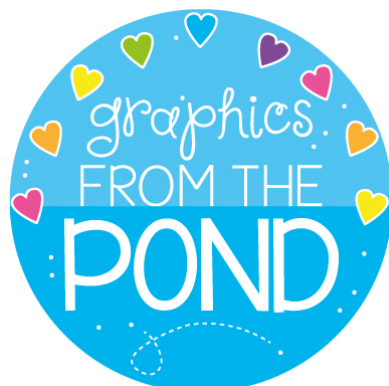
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