

## Paired texts: Story details

### Grade 5 Reading Worksheet

When we **compare** two things, we tell how they are **alike**.

When we **contrast** two things, we tell how they are **different**.

Here are two passages. As you read, think about how the details in the passages are **alike** and how they are **different**.

#### Harbor Seals

Harbor seals are warm-blooded mammals that live near the sea. Unlike their relatives, sea lions, harbor seals do not move easily on land. Sea lions can walk on their flippers and even learn tricks like balancing a ball. Harbor seals, however, move by wriggling along the ground. When they are on land, they are often resting or watching over their newborn pups.

Harbor seals spend most of their lives in the water. They are excellent swimmers and can dive very deep in search of food. In fact, seals can dive as deep as 1,000 feet and stay underwater for more than an hour. They can even sleep in the water while floating at the surface or drifting below.

Harbor seals are found along the coasts of Europe and North America. They often live in bays, harbors and coastal waters, which is how they got their name. They usually feed on small fish, such as herring and cod, along with squid and other sea animals.



#### Gray Seals

Gray seals are another type of seal commonly found in the North Atlantic Ocean. They live mostly along the coasts of Europe, especially in colder northern regions. Like harbor seals, gray seals are strong swimmers and spend most of their lives in the water, coming onto land mainly to rest or care for their pups.

Although gray seals are similar in size to harbor seals, their appearance is quite different. Gray seals do not have a rounded forehead. Instead, their heads are long and their noses are large and wide. Because of this, their faces can appear more serious or even fierce compared to the softer look of harbor seals.

Gray seals are also different in their behavior. They are often more aggressive than harbor seals, especially when they feel threatened. If they become caught in fishing nets, they may struggle and fight to escape. They have also been known to hunt larger prey, including porpoises and bigger fish,



One of the most noticeable features of harbor seals is their face. They have a rounded forehead and a small triangular nose. Their faces often remind people of kittens, which gives them a gentle and friendly appearance. This matches their behavior, since harbor seals are known to be curious and calm animals. They will often follow boats and watch what people are doing.

In some cases, harbor seals have even helped other animals. In one reported story, a dog slipped into a river and was swept toward the ocean. A harbor seal swam around the dog and gently pushed it toward the shore. By the time rescuers arrived, several harbor seals were nearby, keeping watch. Scientists believe that harbor seals can be protective by nature and are rarely aggressive.

which makes them more powerful predators.

Like all seals, gray seals are excellent divers. They can travel long distances in the ocean to find food and can remain underwater for extended periods of time. Their bodies are well adapted for life in the water, with thick layers of blubber to keep them warm in cold ocean temperatures.

Even though gray seals may seem more dangerous, they still play an important role in the ocean ecosystem. They help keep fish populations balanced and are an important part of the food chain. Scientists continue to study gray seals in order to better understand their behavior and how they survive in their environment.

**Some of the details below are true about just one of the passages. Some of the details are true about both passages. Some are not true about either passage. Read each detail, and select the best answer.**

1. ...are warm blooded mammals.
  - a. Harbor seals only
  - b. Gray seals only
  - c. Both types of seal
  - d. Neither type of seal
  
2. ...move around easily on land.
  - a. Harbor seals only
  - b. Gray seals only
  - c. Both types of seal
  - d. Neither type of seal

3. ...can sleep under water.
  - a. Harbor seals only
  - b. Gray seals only
  - c. Both types of seal
  - d. Neither type of seal
4. ...can be found on the coasts of Europe.
  - a. Harbor seals only
  - b. Gray seals only
  - c. Both types of seal
  - d. Neither type of seal
5. ...can be found on the west coast of North America.
  - a. Harbor seals only
  - b. Gray seals only
  - c. Both types of seal
  - d. Neither type of seal
6. ...have a small triangular nose.
  - a. Harbor seals only
  - b. Gray seals only
  - c. Both types of seal
  - d. Neither type of seal
7. ...are protective by nature.
  - a. Harbor seals only
  - b. Gray seals only
  - c. Both types of seal
  - d. Neither type of seal
8. ...are aggressive by nature.
  - a. Harbor seals only
  - b. Gray seals only
  - c. Both types of seal
  - d. Neither type of seal
9. What is one other detail that is **alike** or **different** about the two types of seals?  

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## Answers

1. ...are warm blooded mammals.  
c. Both types of seal
2. ...move around easily on land.  
d. Neither type of seal
3. ...can sleep under water.  
c. Both types of seal
4. ...can be found on the coasts of Europe.  
c. Both types of seal
5. ...can be found on the west coast of North America.  
a. Harbor seals only
6. ...have a small triangular nose.  
a. Harbor seals only
7. ...are protective by nature.  
a. Harbor seals only
8. ...are aggressive by nature.  
b. Gray seals only
9. What is one other detail that is **alike** or **different** about the two types of seals?  
*Answers will vary but must be taken from the passages.*