

Read Naturally Level 6.0

Paired Story Comparison Questions

Stories 1 & 3

Breakout! & An Ellis Island Experience

1. What was the difference between being an inmate on Alcatraz and being detained on Ellis Island?
2. How do you think people's feelings as they entered Alcatraz compared to people's feelings as they entered Ellis Island?
3. Why do you think both the Alcatraz prison and the Ellis Island immigration station were built on islands? Are the reasons the same or different?

Stories 2 & 4

Changes in Chocolate & Capital Confectioner

1. In your opinion, what person or group of people was most important in making chocolate such a popular treat? Why?
2. What changes took place in the 1800s and 1900s that helped make Hershey's chocolate business such a success?
3. Using facts from both stories, tell how chocolate changed during Milton Hershey's lifetime.

Stories 5 & 7

Math Meets Art & Do My Eyes Deceive Me?

1. How was Escher's work like the work of scientists who study optical illusions?
2. How were M. C. Escher's optical illusions similar to the types of illusions that exist in the natural world? How were they different?
3. Do you think that M. C. Escher would have been successful studying optical illusions as a scientist? Why or why not?

Stories 6 & 8

Lake Monster Mystery & Strange Sights

1. Do you think that Sandra Mansi's photograph of the Lake Champlain Monster was most likely a hoax, a mistake, or a real sighting? Explain your answer.
2. What part of the "Strange Sights" story suggests that people might someday be able to prove the existence of Champ?

3. Why might Sandra Mansi have been interested in becoming a cryptozoologist?

Stories 9 & 11

Snake Show & Tricky Tail

1. What are some differences in the way the skink and the hognose trick predators?
2. In your opinion, which animal has a more effective defense against predators? Why?
3. Would the skink or the hognose be more threatening to a potential predator? Explain your answer.

Stories 10 & 12

Controversial Custer & A Battle Won—A War Lost

1. What led each side into the Battle of Little Bighorn/the Battle of Greasy Grass?
2. How do you think fighters on each side reacted to the outcome of the Battle of Little Bighorn/the Battle of Greasy Grass?
3. Do you think that Custer or Sitting Bull was a better leader? Why?

Stories 13 & 15

Mine Mystery & Enormous Explosion

1. How did the terrain of both Tunguska and the Superstition Mountains confuse people who were trying to solve the mysteries in those places?
2. Which mystery do you think is more important to solve? Explain your answer.
3. How did an earthquake affect each mystery?

Stories 14 & 16

The Z-Boys & Surfing on the Snow

1. How did the sport of surfing inspire both Sherman Poppen's development of the Snurfer and the Z-Boys' new style of skateboarding?
2. The Z-Boys did not set out to please other people. Sherman Poppen, on the other hand, did try to please other people. Explain how Sherman's attitude helped him, and how the Z-Boys' attitudes helped them.

Paired Story Comparison Questions, Continued

3. Which do you think was more important: Sherman Poppen's contribution to snowboarding, or the Z-Boys' contribution to skateboarding? Why?

Stories 17 & 19

Writing Out Slavery & A Poet for Life

1. How were the writings of Gwendolyn Brooks and Harriet Beecher Stowe alike? How were they different?
2. How did the writing of each woman reflect what mattered to her?
3. How was writing an important form of expression for both Harriet Beecher Stowe and Gwendolyn Brooks?

Stories 18 & 20

Watch Your Step! & The Sea Lamprey

1. What problems could the sea lamprey and the stonefish cause?
2. How is the function of the sea lamprey's suction-cup-like mouth different from the function of the stonefish's venom spines?
3. In your opinion, is the sea lamprey or the stonefish better adapted to its environment? Explain your answer.

Stories 21 & 23

Día de los Muertos & History of a Holiday

1. How are the roles of food similar in the celebrations of Día de los Muertos and the traditions that became Halloween? How are they different?
2. How are traditional Halloween celebrations different from Día de Los Muertos celebrations? How are they similar?
3. Do people celebrating Día de los Muertos and people celebrating the holidays that later became Halloween seem to have the same attitude toward spirits? Why or why not?

Stories 22 & 24

Tragedy at Mount Tambora & The Year Without a Summer

1. What have scientists learned by studying both the eruption of Mount Tambora and the summer of 1816?
2. How did the eruption of Mount Tambora affect the area nearby? How were its effects different in faraway areas?
3. Today, scientists have lots of information about volcanic eruptions and their effect on the climate. How might people in both Indonesia and the United States have acted differently if they had known this information in 1815 and 1816?

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Additional Comparison Questions

Stories 1, 5, 7, & 8

Breakout!, Math Meets Art, Do My Eyes Deceive Me?, & Strange Sights

The people in these stories all tried to trick other people about what they were seeing. Did they all have the same reasons for these tricks? Explain your answer.

Stories 2 & 21

Changes in Chocolate & Día de los Muertos

When the Spanish conquistadors invaded Mesoamerica in the 1500s, what did they gain from their encounters with the Aztecs? Did the Aztecs gain anything?

Stories 4 & 16

Capital Confectioner & Surfing on the Snow

Both Milton Hershey and Sherman Poppen were innovators in their fields. Tell at least one way their innovations were alike. Tell at least one way they were different.

Stories 5 & 19

Math Meets Art & A Poet for Life

Gwendolyn Brooks's poetry and M. C. Escher's art both inspired other people. How did the subjects of their work differ?

Stories 6 & 7

Lake Monster Mystery & Do My Eyes Deceive Me?

How could scientists use their knowledge of optical illusions to explain the sightings of creatures like Champ?

Stories 7 & 18

Do My Eyes Deceive Me? & Watch Your Step!

Does the stonefish's appearance make use of an optical illusion? If so, how could scientists explain the illusion?

Stories 6, 13, & 15

Lake Monster Mystery, Mine Mystery, & Enormous Explosion

These stories all describe mysteries. How are the three mysteries alike? How are they different?

Stories 10 & 14

Controversial Custer & The Z-Boys

What are some common traits that made both the Z-Boys and George Custer controversial during their own eras?

Stories 12 & 17

A Battle Won—A War Lost & Writing Out Slavery

Both Sitting Bull and Harriet Beecher Stowe stood up for causes they felt strongly about. How were their struggles for justice alike? How were they different?

Stories 10 & 20

Controversial Custer & The Sea Lamprey

Before the Battle of Little Bighorn, settlers moved into American Indian territory and decimated the buffalo herds that had lived there. What behavior by the sea lamprey is similar to this series of events?

Stories 12 & 21

A Battle Won—A War Lost & Día de Los Muertos

In both stories, two cultures came together. How did the Aztec and the Lakota cultures change, according to the stories?

Stories 12 & 24

A Battle Won—A War Lost & The Year Without a Summer

How was Sitting Bull's time in Canada similar to the New England farmers' summer in 1816?

Stories 15 & 22

Enormous Explosion & Tragedy at Mount Tambora

Both the Tunguska explosion and the eruption of Mount Tambora were huge and could be felt a long distance away. Why was the Mount Tambora eruption so much more devastating?

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Answer Key for Paired Story Comparison Questions

Note: The list of answers for some of the questions may not include all the possibilities.

Stories 1 & 3

Breakout! & An Ellis Island Experience

1. In both cases, people were being forced to stay somewhere they didn't want to stay. But on Alcatraz, they were being punished and might never be let go. On Ellis Island, they were just being held for short time, and then they would either get to continue on their way or be sent back to where they came from.
2. Both groups of people might have felt worried, distressed, or lonely for family. However, people came to Ellis Island by choice and waited there for days to get into the United States. Even if these people felt worried or lonely, they probably also felt hopeful and eager about the prospect of starting their new lives as soon as they were released. In contrast, people entering Alcatraz were likely to be there for a long time as a punishment; they probably felt unhappy and hopeless.
3. Both were places where people were held for periods of time, so being on islands might have prevented people from leaving before they were supposed to. But the Ellis Island immigration station could have been built on an island for convenience. Since so many immigrants were arriving by boat, its location was a natural entrance point to New York Harbor. In contrast, the Alcatraz prison wasn't convenient or on the way to anywhere—the whole point of its location was that it was separate from the city and difficult to reach or leave.

Stories 2 & 4

Changes in Chocolate & Capital Confectioner

1. Answers will vary. Possible answers may include: The ancient Maya, because they were some of the first people to eat or drink chocolate; the Spanish conquistadors, because they brought chocolate to Europe; people in Spain, because they mixed sugar with chocolate, which made it taste better; Milton Hershey, because he figured out how to make good milk chocolate at a low cost that people could afford; confectioners, because they made up new

recipes and mixed chocolate into lots of other foods (e.g., ice cream, baked goods).

2. By the 1800s, people had invented machines to grind large quantities of cacao seeds, and then new machines in the 1900s enabled chocolate to become a solid food for the first time.
3. Chocolate became available in solid form rather than just as a drink; chocolate became more affordable and less of a luxury; good-tasting milk chocolate had been uncommon before Hershey opened his factory; chocolate became available to more people because of mass production; confectioners created new ways of using chocolate.

Stories 5 & 7

Math Meets Art & Do My Eyes Deceive Me?

1. Escher designed optical illusions for his work, and so do these scientists. Like the scientists, Escher understood how we perceive the world around us, used his work to gain new insights into nature and math, and designed pictures to confuse viewers.
2. Both kinds of illusions rely on tricking the eye and fooling the mind. Both confuse you about what you are seeing. However, Escher's illusions depicted things that were truly not possible, such as defying gravity. The illusions in nature are often possible but just appear different than what they actually are.
3. Answers will vary. Possible answers may include: Yes, because he was a creative thinker and had a sense of wonder about the world; he understood the laws of nature and mathematics; he was an astute student of life; he was interested in learning about how to fool the eye and the mind. No, because he was more interested in his imagination than in drawing real things.

Stories 6 & 8

Lake Monster Mystery & Strange Sights

1. Answers will vary. Possible answers may include: If the photograph was part of a ruse, Mansi might have just taken a picture of a monster model. If it was a mistake, it might have been a picture of a fish

Answer Key for Paired Story Comparison Questions, Continued

or drifting log, or it might have been affected by lighting or angles. If it was a real sighting, it might have been a picture of a creature that science hasn't yet documented.

2. Other creatures once thought to be imaginary have been shown to exist, like the gorilla and the giant squid.
3. Answers will vary. Possible answers may include: Sandra could have wanted to know for herself what it was she saw. The fact that states bordering the lake took steps to protect Champ may have meant that people took Sandra's photo seriously. So people might have been willing to support Sandra's research. She probably got a lot of attention after her photo became public, and she might have wanted to bring forth even more information about Champ.

Stories 9 & 11

Snake Show & Tricky Tail

1. The skink deceives the predator by making the predator think it has caught prey when it has only caught a detached tail. The skink gets the predator to focus on the skink's tail rather than on the skink itself. The hognose tries to deceive the predator into leaving it alone—first by acting scary, then by acting unappetizing.
2. Answers will vary. Possible answers may include: A skink has a more effective defense because it doesn't have to count on the predator being fooled. Even if a predator knows the skink's tail comes off, it could still fail to catch the skink. The skink and its tail both move quickly, so the predator only has a brief moment to choose the right moving object before it has lost its chance. A hognose, on the other hand, has a weaker defense in that if a predator recognizes the hognose (as the hiker did), the predator could just ignore the snake's whole act and eat the snake. Also, a predator may decide to eat the snake even if it thinks the snake is dead.

A hognose has a more effective defense because it can use its defense again and again, as long as the predator isn't familiar with the ruse. A skink, on the other hand, has a weaker defense in that it loses a lot of energy when its tail falls off, and it can use that defense only a few times.

3. The hognose would probably be more threatening to most predators. It is much bigger than the skink, and it behaves aggressively when it feels threatened: coiling, hissing, and striking like more dangerous snakes. The skink does not try to scare predators; it just tries to escape from them.

Stories 10 & 12

Controversial Custer & A Battle Won—A War Lost

1. The United States wanted to open the Black Hills to people searching for gold, but the American Indians claimed this land as their own, according to a treaty made with the U.S. government. Custer was an aggressive fighter but may also have been reckless, pressing his men to attack without knowing what they faced. He may also have been confident because his side had superior weapons. Sitting Bull's side acted out of frustration with the U.S. government and the desire to preserve American Indians' treaty rights.
2. Answers will vary. Possible answers may include: People fighting on Custer's side would have been scared, upset, disappointed, and maybe angry at Custer for leading them into a battle where they were outnumbered. People fighting on Sitting Bull's side would have been happy to win and glad that Sitting Bull's vision had come true. But they might have still been concerned about their treaty rights and possibly afraid that the United States would try to punish them.
3. Answers will vary. Possible answers may include: Custer was a better leader in that many troops respected him; he was brave; he helped the North win many important battles during the Civil War. Sitting Bull, on the other hand, was ultimately not able to lead his people to safety.

Sitting Bull was a better leader in that his vision was prophetic; his warriors believed in him; he stood up for his tribe's rights; his side won the Battle of Little Bighorn/the Battle of Greasy Grass even though the U.S. side had better weapons. Custer, on the other hand, could be mean to his troops and sometimes took unnecessary risks.

Answer Key for Paired Story Comparison Questions, Continued

Stories 13 & 15

Mine Mystery & Enormous Explosion

1. In Tunguska, a scientist thought he would find proof of a meteorite crash. Instead of an impact crater or pieces of the meteorite, though, he found a confusing pattern of fallen trees. In the Superstitions, an earthquake may have changed the landmarks leading to the supposed location of Jacob's gold.
2. Answers will vary. Possible answers may include: Solving the mystery of the Tunguska event could mean that people would be able to guard against the same thing happening over a populated area. Also, understanding the Tunguska event might teach us more about nature, which would be useful for many other things.

Finding Jacob's gold could end risky searches, since many people have died in the quest for Jacob's gold.
3. In the Tunguska event, the earthquake was part of the event (either a cause or a direct effect), so it is useful evidence that might help lead to an explanation. In the mystery of Jacob's gold, the earthquake confused things in that it may have changed the landscape, making clues less reliable.

Stories 14 & 16

The Z-Boys & Surfing on the Snow

1. Sherman thought of his invention as "a surfboard for the snow" and named it the Snurfer by combining the words *snow* and *surfer*. The Z-Boys lived in California and were actual surfers; while they were skateboarding, they copied the styles of surfers they admired.
2. By trying to please his daughter and children in the neighborhood, Sherman came up with the idea for a fun toy that he was able to turn into a popular product. By not trying to please other people, the Z-Boys focused on their love of skateboarding. In this way, they came up with a new style of skateboarding that people liked. Instead of trying to be like other people, the Z-Boys made other people want to skate like they did.

3. Answers will vary. Possible answers may include: Sherman put one of the first snowboards on the market, which gave people a chance to discover the new sport. The Z-Boys came up with new styles of riding that brought new interest to the sport of skateboarding.

Stories 17 & 19

Writing Out Slavery & A Poet for Life

1. Their writings were alike in that they both wrote about hardships people experienced. Both wrote about the lives of black people and their struggles against racism.

Their writings were different in that Harriet wrote about slavery and Gwendolyn wrote about poverty. Harriet's writing encouraged people to fight for the end of slavery. Much of Gwendolyn's poetry was about "just being me." The two women also wrote during two different periods in history.

2. Gwendolyn Brooks said that, in her poetry, she was "just being me." She depicted the beauty of ordinary dreams and troubles through her writing. Harriet's writing showed that she was concerned about slavery, she wanted people to know what slaves' lives were like, and she wanted people to join the fight against slavery.
3. Gwendolyn Brooks was shy and solitary, so writing gave her a way to share her thoughts and ideas with other people. Harriet Beecher Stowe could not vote, so writing gave her a way to share her ideas and take action against slavery.

Stories 18 & 20

Watch Your Step! & The Sea Lamprey

1. The sea lamprey could cause fish to become extinct and could change the balance of species that live in the water. The stonefish could trick people and other animals with its camouflage, and its venom could harm or even kill.
2. The sea lamprey's mouth helps it as a predator: it allows the sea lamprey to be a parasite, latching onto other fish and draining their fluids. The stonefish's spines are a defense: when the stonefish is threatened, the spines can injure predators and keep them away.

Answer Key for Paired Story Comparison Questions, Continued

3. Answers will vary. Possible answers may include:
The sea lamprey can move to and thrive in new areas. It doesn't have trouble finding food in new areas. It can live in both salt and fresh water, so has a lot of freedom to move about.

The stonefish blends in with its surroundings so that predators can't see it. Camouflage hides it from prey, so it has an advantage when eating. It has very dangerous venom to keep it safe from anything that might come near it.

Stories 21 & 23

Día de los Muertos & History of a Holiday

1. Both holidays have important traditions connected to food. People bake special bread and have special meals for Día de Los Muertos. Halloween has a history of soul cakes and other food offerings. But the reasons for offering the food are different. In Halloween's history, people used food as a gift to spirits to try to ward off evil, and as payment to people praying for the souls of their neighbors' dead relatives. On Día de los Muertos, people make special food to welcome and honor the dead.
2. For Halloween, people dress in costumes, leave treats on doorsteps, carve pumpkins, and tell ghost stories for fun. For Día de Los Muertos, people build altars, offer food, visit cemeteries, reminisce, and watch parades. Both holidays revolve around the spirit world and the dead. Both evolved over many centuries.
3. Both holidays happen during a time of the year when people believe the spirit world is in closer contact with the living world. But Día de Los Muertos welcomes the holiday as a time of feeling connected to those who have passed on. Halloween traditions are more concerned with keeping evil spirits away.

Stories 22 & 24

Tragedy at Mount Tambora & The Year Without a Summer

1. They have learned more about eruptions and their effects. They have learned that dust and ash from volcanoes in one part of the world can lower temperatures in another part. They have learned about the community living around Tambora in 1815 from the buried artifacts.
2. At the base of the volcano, people, animals, and plants were buried in an avalanche of ash. Close to the base, streams and rivers were contaminated, there were food shortages, and people were dying from starvation, poisoning, and disease. Farther away, the eruption caused tsunamis. Even farther away than that, particles of ash decreased sunlight and caused colder weather, leading to crop failures, which caused famine, food riots, and relocation.
3. If people at the time had been able to predict the eruption, they might have been able to warn the residents of Indonesia so that they could escape. In the United States, farmers would have understood why the weather was so cool and would not have been confused. If they knew the weather would probably improve again, they might have been more likely to stay in New England instead of moving west.

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Answer Key for Additional Comparison Questions

Note: The list of answers for some of the questions may not include all the possibilities.

Stories 1, 5, 7, & 8

Breakout!, Math Meets Art, Do My Eyes Deceive Me?, & Strange Sights

No, these people all had different reasons for trying to trick other people. The prisoners were trying to make sure they would have time to escape, so they wanted the guards to think they were still in their beds. Those who play hoaxes may be trying to make money, play a joke, or get others to believe what they themselves believe. Scientists who make optical illusions are tricking viewers to understand how the eyes and mind work together to help people see. M. C. Escher used illusions to challenge people to think about reality.

Stories 2 & 21

Changes in Chocolate & Día de los Muertos

The conquistadors discovered chocolate in their invasion of Mesoamerica; they took cacao seeds home to Spain, and chocolate became popular there. The Aztecs gained some Catholic traditions from the conquistadors, which are now part of Día de Los Muertos.

Stories 4 & 16

Capital Confectioner & Surfing on the Snow

Both men made important contributions to their fields by improving an existing product rather than by inventing something new. Hershey found a better way to make chocolate at a cheaper price, and Sherman modified skis to let people use them in a new way. Both of their products were mass-produced. However, Hershey worked on his product for most of his life and had a great deal of success. Sherman's product came about just because he had an idea, not because he worked on it for a long time or planned for it. It also didn't last as long as Hershey's product. Snurfers were manufactured for fewer than 20 years, whereas Hershey's chocolate is still around.

Stories 5 & 19

Math Meets Art & A Poet for Life

Gwendolyn Brooks became famous for writing poetry about the things she saw around her; her poetry dealt with human struggles, the city around her, and the real lives of ordinary people. M. C. Escher thought it was most important to draw what he imagined. His best-known illustrations are of things that could not possibly exist in the real world.

Stories 6 & 7

Lake Monster Mystery & Do My Eyes Deceive Me?

Sometimes the eye detects a real object, but without past experience to relate the image to, the brain can't perceive it. So people could see a creature like Champ and not understand what it really was. Scientists know that sometimes our eyes see one thing, and our brains interpret it as something else—for example, we may see light, but our brains may tell us we see a puddle of water. People who think they see Champ may have been tricked by the way the eye and the brain work together.

Stories 7 & 18

Do My Eyes Deceive Me? & Watch Your Step!

The stonefish's appearance makes use of the way people's eyes and brains can trick each other. The stonefish looks similar to the rocks around it. A person's brain may interpret the stonefish as a rock because the brain doesn't have enough information to see the fish. Even when the eyes are seeing the fish, the brain may not be aware that the stonefish can look like a rock, so the brain may just perceive the fish as being a rock.

Stories 6, 13, & 15

Lake Monster Mystery, Mine Mystery, & Enormous Explosion

The three mysteries are alike in that people were not able to solve them—no one could determine what happened at Tunguska, what appeared in Sandra Mansi's photo, or where Jacob's mine was. All three stories talk about people trying to come up with theories and solve the mysteries.

Answer Key for Additional Comparison Questions, Continued

The three mysteries are different in that the Tunguska mystery deals with something that definitely happened. In contrast, there is no definite proof that Jacob's mine or the Lake Champlain Monster ever existed at all.

Stories 10 & 14

Controversial Custer & The Z-Boys

Although their lives and the things they achieved were very different, both Custer and the Z-Boys were bold and took risks. They achieved success at young ages by doing things differently than the people around them. They sometimes got into trouble. Many people did not like their attitudes or agree with the way they did things.

Stories 12 & 17

A Battle Won—A War Lost & Writing Out Slavery

Sitting Bull and Harriet Beecher Stowe both stood up for the rights of groups of people they thought were being treated unfairly. Neither of them had a voice in the way the U.S. government was treating these groups. However, their involvement with the groups they supported was different. Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote about slavery, but she was not a slave. Sitting Bull, on the other hand, was fighting for his own tribe's rights; he was affected directly by the outcome of the fight. The outcomes of their struggles for justice were also different. Harriet eventually saw slavery abolished, but Sitting Bull was forced to surrender and did not get what he had wanted.

Stories 10 & 20

Controversial Custer & The Sea Lamprey

The sea lamprey left the Atlantic, its native habitat, and moved into a new area, the upper Great Lakes. Once it was there, it decimated several of the fish species that had already lived in that area.

Stories 12 & 21

A Battle Won—A War Lost & Día de Los Muertos

In Mexico, the Catholic customs of the Spanish gained some characteristics of old Aztec culture. Meanwhile, the old Aztec customs gained characteristics of Catholic culture.

The Lakota people lost their way of life. Settlers moved into their lands. The Lakota depended on buffalo herds, and these herds were decimated by settlers. The U.S. government forced the Lakota onto reservations and denied them their right to hunt outside the reservations. Instead, they had to survive on food that the U.S. government provided.

Stories 12 & 24

A Battle Won—A War Lost & The Year Without a Summer

Both groups had a shortage of food. They were both very dependent upon their environments and the weather for food: the New England farmers needed crops that were plentiful and affordable, and Sitting Bull and the Lakota needed to have buffalo that were plentiful enough to hunt.

Stories 15 & 22

Enormous Explosion & Tragedy at Mount Tambora

The Mount Tambora eruption happened in a populated area, and the Tunguska event happened in a remote forest. Tambora threw dust and ash up in the air, which made it have even more far-reaching effects; the Tunguska event doesn't seem to have sent up any dust or ash. The Tambora eruption also caused tsunamis hundreds of miles away.