

Compare Details

Mighty Muskrats: The Case of the Windy Lake - Grade 5 - Short lesson

TIME

OBJECTIVE

10 minutes Compare the rope's initial appearance with its later explanation.

PRODUCT

A two-column comparison or one contrast paragraph.

Essential question: How does the Muskrats' final explanation of the rope differ from what the rope initially appeared to show?

Materials	Text to mark
• The book	• Passage 6 - Write the comparison.

- Prepared passages: Passage 6, Passage 11, Passage 12
- Student response materials

Lesson sequence

1 Set the focus - 2 min State the initial appearance.

Prepared text:	Passage 6
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- Passage 11 - Write the comparison.
- Passage 12 - Write the comparison.

2 Work the evidence - 5 min Contrast it with the final explanation.

Prepared text:	Passages 11, 12 3 Make the student product - 3 min Write the comparison.
Prepared text:	Passages 6, 11, 12

Teacher key

At first the rope looks as if a person pulled the boat toward shore, but later the Muskrats conclude that a hawk lifted and dropped it after the boat drifted to the delta.

Support & extension

Above: Explain how the contrast makes the rope an effective red herring.

Assessment

- Accurately states the initial appearance.
- Accurately states the final explanation.
- Uses a clear contrast structure.