

Paws in Contrast Answer Key

T-Chart (Sample Answers)

Same (Similarities)

- Both can be family pets.
- Both require food and some type of care.
- Both can live with humans indoors.

Different (Contrasts)

- Dogs need daily walks; cats do not.
- Dogs require grooming by owners; cats usually groom themselves.
- Dogs are loyal and protective; cats are more independent.
- Dogs are easier to train; cats can be harder to train.
- Cats are quieter and adapt to small spaces; dogs need more exercise and space.

Questions (Sample Answers)

1. Cats may seem easier to care for because they groom themselves and do not need to be walked.
2. (Answers will vary.) Example: I would prefer a dog because I like going outside for walks and playing fetch.

Teacher Notes/Guide

- This activity teaches students how to **separate similarities from differences** clearly.
- Encourage students to use **signal words** like *both, alike, while, but, unlike*.
- The open-ended questions build critical thinking and allow students to connect the reading to personal experience.
- Consider extending the activity by having students **write a short paragraph** that compares and contrasts dogs and cats, using the T-Chart as their organizer.