

Tracks vs. Skies Answer Key

Sample Answers

1. **Similarity:** Both trains and airplanes connect people from place to place and can be delayed by weather.
2. **Speed:** Trains are slower, while airplanes are much faster and can cross oceans in hours.
3. **Shared challenge:** Both trains and airplanes may face delays due to weather conditions.
4. **Relaxation/freedom:** Trains allow more freedom since passengers can move, rest, or look out the window, while planes have tighter space and stricter rules.
5. **Cross-country choice:** (Answers may vary.) A train would be better for a cross-country trip inside one country because it allows more comfort and avoids the higher costs of flying.

Teacher Notes/Guide

- This activity helps students **read two informational texts** and directly apply **compare/contrast thinking**.
- Encourage students to **underline evidence** in each passage before answering.
- Question 5 allows for **reasoned opinion writing**, pushing beyond recall into critical thinking.
- Extension idea: Have students create a **T-Chart or Venn diagram** with details from both passages before answering the questions.