

Battle of the Beasts: Compare & Contrast Passages

Directions: Read both passages carefully. Then answer the questions below to compare how the **main ideas** and **supporting details** are used in each.

Passage 1: The Strength of the Grizzly Bear

Grizzly bears are known for their incredible power. These large animals can weigh up to 800 pounds and stand over 7 feet tall on their hind legs. Their sharp claws and muscular limbs allow them to catch fish, dig into tough soil, and even flip heavy logs in search of food. Despite their size, grizzlies can run up to 35 miles per hour, making them one of the fastest animals of their size. Their strength helps them survive in the wild and protect their territory.

Passage 2: The Speed of the Cheetah

Cheetahs are built for speed. With long legs, a flexible spine, and large lungs, cheetahs are capable of reaching speeds up to 70 miles per hour. They use their speed to chase and catch prey on the open African plains. A cheetah's tail acts like a rudder, helping it balance during sharp turns. While they are not the strongest animals in the wild, cheetahs are unmatched in speed and agility, making them successful hunters despite their light build.

Questions:

1. What is the main idea of Passage 1?

- a) Grizzly bears live in the forest.
- b) Grizzly bears are strong and use their strength to survive.
- c) Grizzly bears eat fish and berries.

2. What is the main idea of Passage 2?

- a) Cheetahs are the fastest animals in the world and use their speed to hunt.
- b) Cheetahs live on the plains of Africa.
- c) Cheetahs have long legs and tails.

3. How does Passage 1 support its main idea?

- a) By listing animals that bears eat.
- b) By explaining how bears hibernate.
- c) By describing the bear's size and strength.

4. How does Passage 2 support its main idea?

- a) By showing how cheetahs care for their young.
- b) By describing how cheetahs use their speed to hunt.
- c) By comparing cheetahs to lions.

