

Similarities & Differences

REM 201D

A TEACHING RESOURCE FROM...



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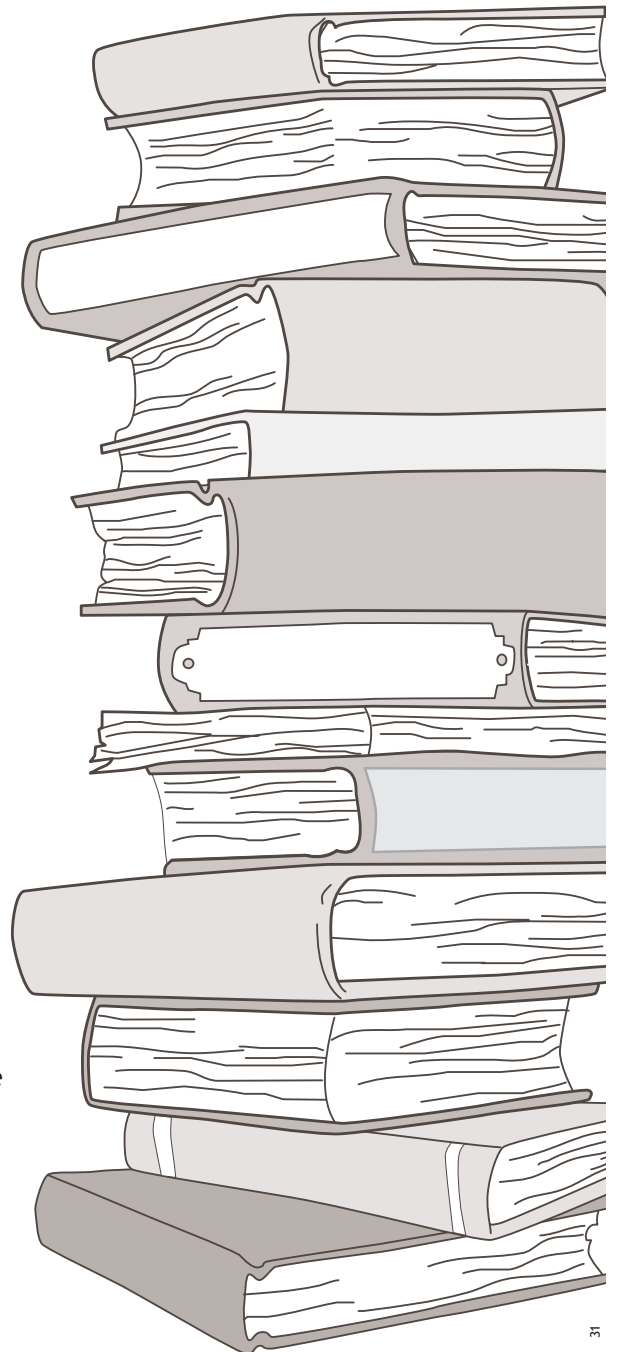
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INTRODUCTION

The activities in this book have been designed to provide a variety of approaches to identifying similarities and differences. The use of pictures reinforces skills of visual discrimination-some guiding analysis of similarities and others placing a focus on differences. Because these activities are fun, and seem more like games than "work," students willingly strengthen skills.

Other exercises take them a step further-to single word or short phrase analysis. At this level, visual discrimination is used, along with the more abstract skill of word meaning.

The most difficult level, that of looking for similarities and differences in complete sentences, combines all the individual skills into a more complex process.

Encouraging students to make up original exercises or "games" similar to those provided is an excellent reinforcement of each area.

You will find this book to be an effective teaching tool for many ages and readability levels. Based on Bloom's Taxonomy of thinking skills, it is suitable for grades 3-6. Readability is approximately at the 3rd-4th grade level. (Keep in mind that readability scales, though useful, are guidelines only. They cannot measure every factor affecting readability, such as sentence structure or appeal to the reader. Also, scales can differ from each other in the results they yield).

A pre/post test is included at the back of the book for evaluation of student progress.

Although an answer key is provided, it is entirely possible that students may have very valid reasons for choosing a different answer than what is given in the key. Any answer they can explain in a logical manner should be accepted.

All activities are reproducible for use in a variety of teaching, practice, and reinforcement situations. They are appropriate for whole class, small group, or individual use. Oral discussion of the work as it is completed will increase the level of student understanding.

THE CRITICAL THINKING SERIES

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Similarities and Differences

Similarities are ways in which words, objects, and ideas are alike.

Differences are ways in which they are not alike.

Let's compare two familiar objects to find ways they are similar and ways they are different:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. A tennis ball is round. | A basketball is _____ . |
| 2. A tennis ball is small. | A basketball is _____ . |
| 3. A tennis ball is fuzzy. | A basketball is _____ . |
| 4. A tennis ball bounces. | A basketball _____ . |
| 5. A tennis ball is used on a court. | A basketball is used on a _____ . |

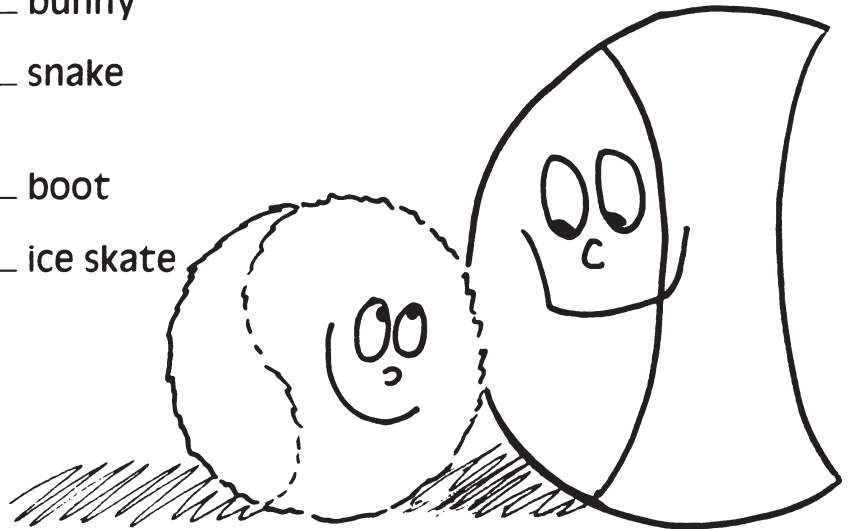
Look back over your list.

How many ways are they similar? _____

How many ways are they different? _____

Look at each pair of words below. Put an "X" in front of the one that is more similar to a tennis ball.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 6. ___ hot dog | 7. ___ bunny |
| ___ hamburger | ___ snake |
| 8. ___ soccer ball | 9. ___ boot |
| ___ baseball | ___ ice skate |
| 10. ___ lemon | |
| ___ grape | |



Find pictures of objects that have at least one similarity.

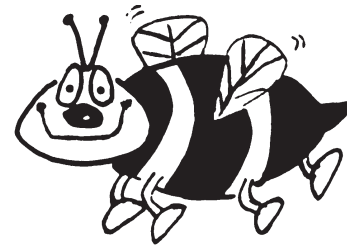
Draw a line connecting them.



Name _____

SIMILARITIES & DIFFERENCES

Look at the words in each box. Decide what makes them similar . . . then add a word having the same similarity. Write the similarity on the line at the bottom of each box.



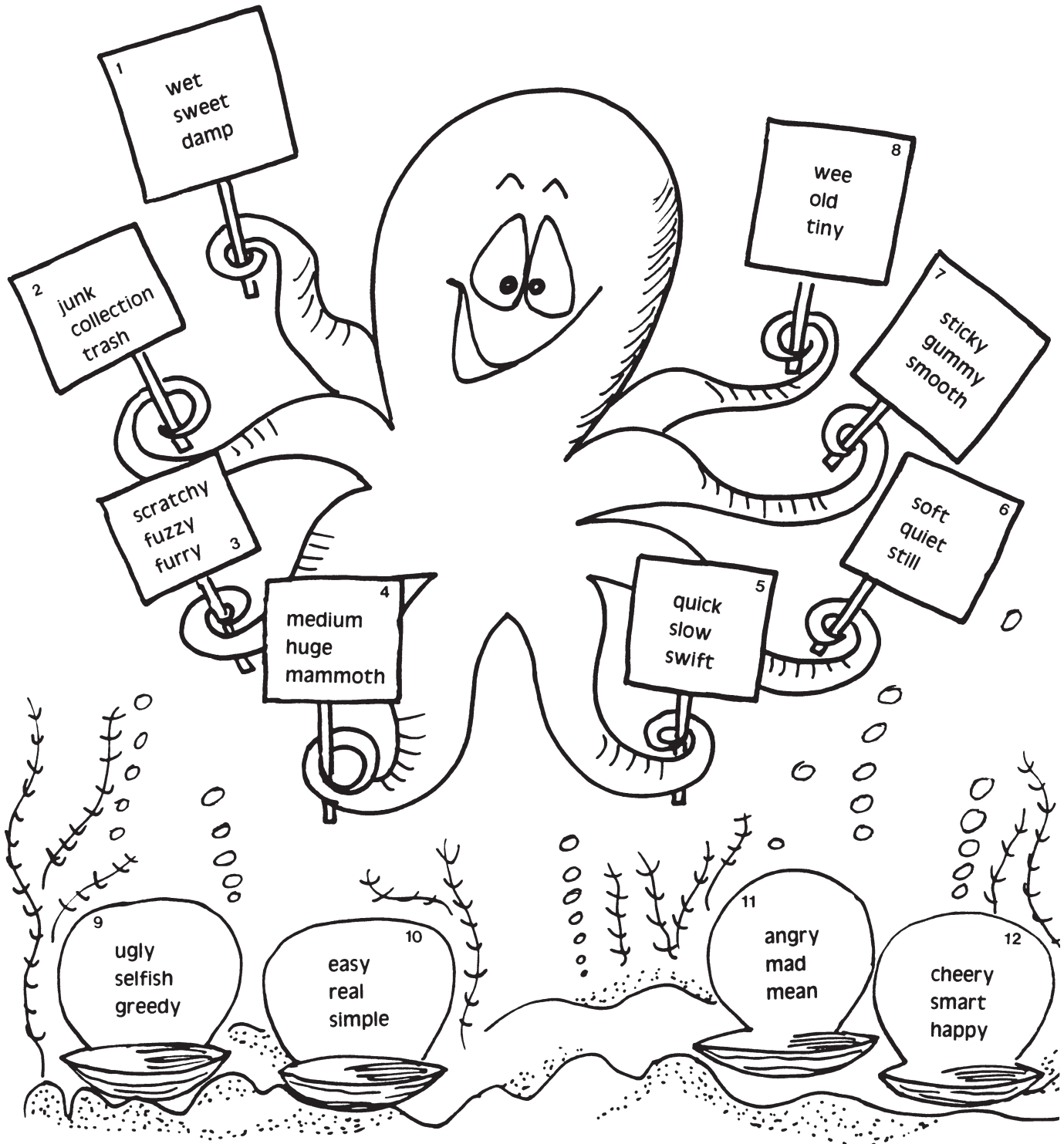
| | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| root leaf _____ | stem _____ | duck chicken _____ | turkey _____ |
| penny nickel _____ | quarter _____ | milk orange juice _____ | cola _____ |
| lake ocean _____ | pond _____ | chalk pencil _____ | crayon _____ |
| cricket spider _____ | ant _____ | laugh smile _____ | grin _____ |



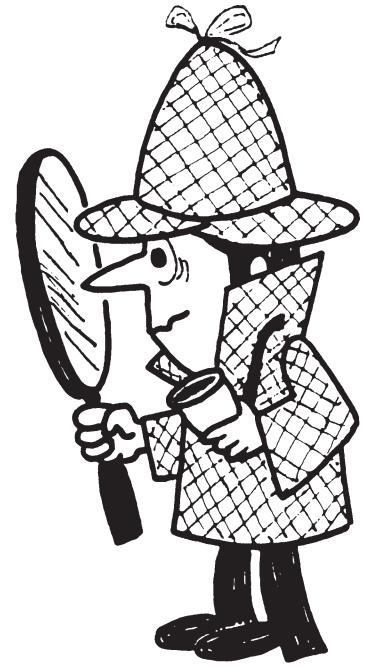
| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| jar can box _____ _____ | bus car train _____ _____ |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

**Orville Octopus and his friends have trouble with similarities.
They could use your help!**

Circle the two words in each box with similar meanings.



Track down the similarities and differences in these pairs of sentences. Read each pair carefully. If they have similar meanings, put an "S" in the box before the sentences. If they have different meanings, put a "D" in the box.



1. The man was very rich.
The man was very wealthy.
2. Mr. Bluster looked at us crossly.
Mr. Bluster had a pleasant look on his face.
3. We almost always left on time.
We usually left on time.
4. He made 5 mistakes on his test.
He had 5 incorrect answers on his test.
5. The puppy was helpless.
The puppy could take care of itself.
6. Don't give me too much to eat.
I'd like small helpings of each dish.
7. She makes me nervous.
I am very comfortable with her.
8. The wire was not straight.
The wire was crooked.
9. The bark on the tree was prickly.
The tree had a very smooth trunk.
10. The rock felt very slippery.
The rock was very slimy.