



# Compare & Contrast in a Venn Diagram

## Introduction

In the book "The Swamp Where Gator Hides," which is a variation on "The House That Jack Built," the reader is introduced to cumulative story structure. In this activity students compare and contrast both books in a Venn Diagram.

## Materials Needed

- ◆ A copy of "The Swamp Where Gator Hides."
- ◆ A copy of "The House That Jack Built"
- ◆ Paper on which a Venn Diagram is drawn

## Key Concepts

- ◆ Unifying concepts and processes through evidence, models and explanation
- ◆ Understandings about scientific inquiry
- ◆ Characteristics of organisms and environment

## Procedure

1. Explain to students that you will be reading a story that is written in cumulative rhyme which repeats each part of a story from beginning to end.
2. Read "The Swamp Where Gator Hides."
3. Then read "The House That Jack Built."
4. Discuss how the books are the same and how they are different.
5. Pass out the paper with the Venn diagram, explaining that the two circles help us show characteristics that are the same and those that are different. The spaces that don't overlap contain unique details about one book or the other, while the space where the circles overlap contains information that is the same for each book
6. Students compare both books and fill in the circles.

## Nature Connections

◆ Author, Marianne Berkes, has written another cumulative story entitled "The Tree That Bear Climbed" published by Sylvan Dell Publishing in 2011. While this is also a cumulative story, it does not rhyme, and is about how a tree grows, which is quite different from either "The Swamp Where Gator Hides," or "The House That Jack Built." Older students will enjoy comparing this book with the other two as well, in a Venn diagram.

## Additional Resources

[www.graphic.org/venbas.html](http://www.graphic.org/venbas.html)

