

CHAPTER 2 REINFORCING SKILLS ACTIVITY

Comparing and Contrasting

When you look for similarities and differences between two or more things, you are comparing and contrasting. Many kinds of characteristics and features can be compared and contrasted. To compare, look for similarities that things share. To contrast, look for differences between things.

To compare and contrast, ask the questions:

- What items are being compared and contrasted?
- Which characteristics will be used to compare and contrast items?
- What are the similarities and differences in these characteristics?

In the chart below, facts are given about several lakes in Africa. The chart's title and column headings give important information about what can be compared and contrasted.

Practicing the Skill

DIRECTIONS: Study the chart about selected lakes in Africa, and answer the following questions.

FACTS ABOUT SELECTED LAKES IN AFRICA						
Lake	Area in Square Miles (square kilometers)		Maximum Depth in Feet (meters)		Elevation in Feet (meters)	
Victoria	26,828	(69,484)	270	(82)	3,720	(1,134)
Tanganyika	12,700	(32,893)	4,823	(1,470)	2,534	(772)
Nyasa	11,150	(28,878)	2,280	(695)	1,550	(472)
Chad	6,300	(16,317)	24	(7)	787	(240)
Turkana	2,473	(6,405)	240	(73)	1,230	(375)
Albert	2,075	(5,374)	168	(51)	2,030	(619)
Kariba	2,050	(5,309)	390	(119)	1,590	(485)

Source: The World Almanac 2001

1. According to the chart, what aspects of the lakes can be compared or contrasted?

2. Which lake covers the largest area? _____
3. Which two lakes cover areas of about the same size? _____
4. Which two lakes show the greatest difference in maximum depth? _____
5. How many lakes are at elevations of less than 2,000 feet (610 m)? _____
6. Which lake is at the lowest elevation? _____
7. List the lakes in order of maximum depth, from deepest to shallowest _____
