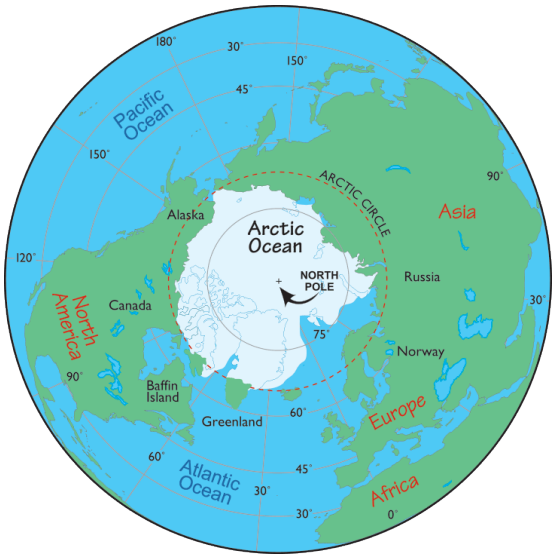
Name: _____

Reading Test

RI.3.9: Compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in two texts on the same topic.

Passage 1: Polar Bears Are Made for the Arctic

1 There are eight different kinds of bears spread across the Earth. They live in different habitats and eat different things. One of the best types of bear is the polar bear.



2 Polar bears live in the Arctic. The Arctic is a cold, icy area that covers most northern parts of the Earth. Polar bears are interesting animals because they can live in such a remote part of the world.

3 Polar bear babies, called cubs, weigh about as much as a large book. But they can grow to weigh twice as much as a tiger! But polar bears are better than tigers.

4 Polar bears were built for living in the cold. They have thick, fatty blubber and a lot of fur to keep them warm. Each strand of a polar bear's fur is hollow. You can see through it!

5 One of the most interesting things about polar bears is the way they look. Polar bears are usually white or cream colored. This protects them because they are hard to see against the white snow and ice. You might think polar bears have white skin, too, but it is actually black. Like many animals in the Arctic, they have a short tail and small ears that don't get cold.

6 Polar bears also have small heads and long bodies, which help them swim. They spend a lot of time in the water. They are very good swimmers, which makes them special. All the fat on their bodies helps them float.

7 Polar bears also spend time on ice and on land. Polar bears are one of the world's largest carnivores that live on land. A carnivore is an animal that eats other animals. Polar bears eat seals, walruses, and whales. But you don't have to be afraid of polar bears because most people only see them in zoos.

Passage 2: Polar Bears Grow Up

1 Polar bears live along shores and on sea ice in the icy cold Arctic. In fall, female polar bears make dens in earth and snow banks, where they'll stay and give birth to one to three cubs in the winter. At birth, the cubs weigh about one pound. They cannot see or hear, and have a thin coat of hair. The cubs stay in the den.

2 At three months, the polar bear cubs are ready to leave the den. In spring the mother emerges from her den followed by her cubs. During that time she will protect them and teach them how to hunt. They are still little and stay near their mother's side. The cubs will learn about life in the Arctic.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

A polar bear and her cubs.

3 Mother polar bears show their cubs how to stalk prey that is on the surface. They keep their heads low and blend with the snow drifts. The baby polar bears observe and follow their mother during the hunt as they will have to do for themselves once they reach adulthood.

4 At 1-2 years old, polar bears are very playful. They still stay near their mother. Polar bears learn how to hunt and protect themselves by playing and wrestling with a brother or sister.

5 After about three years, polar bears become adults. Polar bears are then ready to leave their mother and start their own life on the Arctic ice.

1. **Part A: In Passage 1, what is the author's point of view toward polar bears?** *RI.2.6*
   - ○ The author believes that polar bears are boring.
   - ○ The author likes all animals equally.
   - ○ The author thinks that polar bears are very interesting.
   - ○ The author does not give his or her opinion about polar bears.

2. **Part B: What detail from Passage 1 best supports your answer to part A?** *RI.2.6*
   - ○ "There are eight different kinds of bears spread across the Earth."
   - ○ "They have thick, fatty blubber and a lot of fur to keep them warm."
   - ○ "One of the best types of bear is the polar bear. "
   - ○ "Polar bears also spend time on ice and on land."

3. **Part A: Based on the information in Passage 1, what is true about polar bears?** *RI.1.1*
   - ○ Polar bears are good swimmers.
   - ○ A polar bear would beat a tiger in a fight.
   - ○ Polar bears live on every continent of the world.
   - ○ Polar bears have a difficult time keeping warm.

4. **Part B: What detail from Passage 1 does <u>NOT</u> support your answer to part A?** *RI.3.9*

   - ○ Polar bears also have small heads and long bodies, which help them swim.
   - ○ All the fat on their bodies helps them float.
   - ○ They spend a lot of time in the water.
   - ○ Polar bears are usually white or cream-colored.

5. **Part A: Based on the information in Passage 1, what is true about polar bears?** *RI.1.1*

   - ○ Polar bears are built for living in cold, snowy weather.
   - ○ You should be afraid of polar bears.
   - ○ Most adult polar bears weigh as much as a dog or a cat.
   - ○ Polar bears can't keep themselves warm.

6. **Part B: Select TWO details from Passage 1 that best support your answer to part A.** *RI.1.1*

   - ○ But polar bears are better than tigers.
   - ○ Polar bears have thick, fatty blubber.
   - ○ Polar bear cubs weigh about as much as a large book.
   - ○ Polar bears are one of the world's largest carnivores on land.
   - ○ Polar bears have a lot of fur.

7. **Select TWO questions about polar bears that you can answer after reading BOTH Passage 1 and Passage 2.** *RI.3.9*

   - ○ Which zoos have polar bears?
   - ○ How do polar bears walk?
   - ○ How are polar bears are adapted for cold weather?
   - ○ Where do polar bears live?
   - ○ What are polar bears' babies are called?

8. **Part A: Reread paragraph 7 of Passage 1.**

   Polar bears also spend time on ice and on land. Polar bears are one of the world's largest carnivores that live on land. A carnivore is an animal that eats other animals. Polar bears eat seals, walruses, and whales. But you don't have to be afraid of polar bears because most people only see them in zoos.

   Based on this paragraph, what is true about polar bears? *RI.1.2*

   - ○ Polar bears eat plants and animals.
   - ○ Polar bears eat many types of meat.
   - ○ Polar bears eat people.
   - ○ Many other animals are larger than polar bears.

9. **Part B: What detail from Passage 1 best supports your answer to part A?** *RI.1.2*

   - ○ Polar bears also spend time on ice and on land.
   - ○ But you don't have to be afraid of polar bears because most people only see them in zoos.

- ○ Polar bears are one of the world's largest carnivores that live on land.
- ○ Polar bears eat seals, walruses, and whales.

10. Select TWO details from Passage 1 that share the author's opinion about polar bears. *RI.2.6*

- ○ "Polar bears are interesting animals because they can live in such a remote part of the world."
- ○ "Polar bears were built for living in the cold."
- ○ "Polar bears are better than tigers."
- ○ "But they can grow to weigh twice as much as a tiger!"

11. What is the main idea of Passage 1? *RI.1.2*

- ○ Polar bears have small heads and long bodies.
- ○ Polar bears have body parts that help them survive the ice and snow.
- ○ Polar bears eat other animals.
- ○ There are eight different kinds of bears spread across the Earth.

12. What is the main idea of Passage 2? *RI.1.2*

- ○ Polar bear mothers take care of their cubs.
- ○ Polar bear cubs live in dens.
- ○ Polar bear cubs can see and hear after three months of age.
- ○ Polar bear cubs weigh one pound at birth.

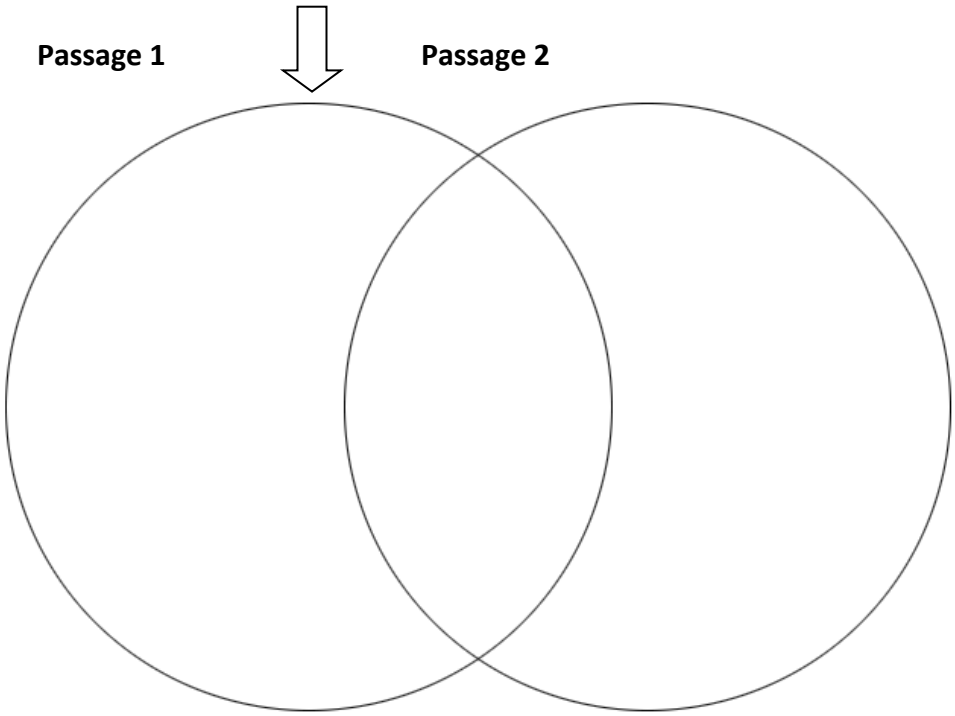
13. How are Passages 1 and 2 different? *RI.3.9*

- ○ Passage 1 and Passage 2

14. Part A: Based on the information in Passage 2, what is true about polar bears? *RI.1.1*

15. Part B: Select the sentence from Passage 2 that best supports your answer to part A. *RI.1.1*

16. Look at the Venn diagram. Which of the following details would belong in the middle of the Venn diagram? *RI.3.9*



- ○ "live in the Arctic"
- ○ "eat squid and fish"
- ○ "fur is hollow"
- ○ "small wings called flipper"

Instructions: Read both articles. Then, answer the questions.

Article A

Earthquakes are the shaking, rolling, or sudden shock of the earth's surface. Earthquakes happen along "fault lines" in the earth's crust. Earthquakes can be felt over large areas although they usually last less than one minute. Earthquakes cannot be predicted—although scientists are working on it!

Most of the time, you will notice an earthquake by the gentle shaking of the ground. You may notice hanging plants swaying or objects wobbling on shelves. Sometimes you may hear a low rumbling noise or feel a sharp jolt. A survivor of the 1906 earthquake in San Francisco said the sensation was like riding a bicycle down a long flight of stairs.

The intensity of an earthquake can be measured. One measurement is called the Richter scale. Earthquakes below 4.0 on the Richter scale usually do not cause damage, and earthquakes below 2.0 usually can't be felt. Earthquakes over 5.0 on the scale can cause damage. A magnitude of 6.0 earthquake is considered strong and a magnitude of 7.0 is a major earthquake. The Northridge Earthquake, which hit southern California in 1994, was a magnitude of 6.7.

Earthquakes are sometimes called temblors, quakes, shakers or seismic activity. The most important thing to remember during an earthquake is to DROP and COVER. Drop and cover means DROP to the floor and get under something for COVER!

Article B

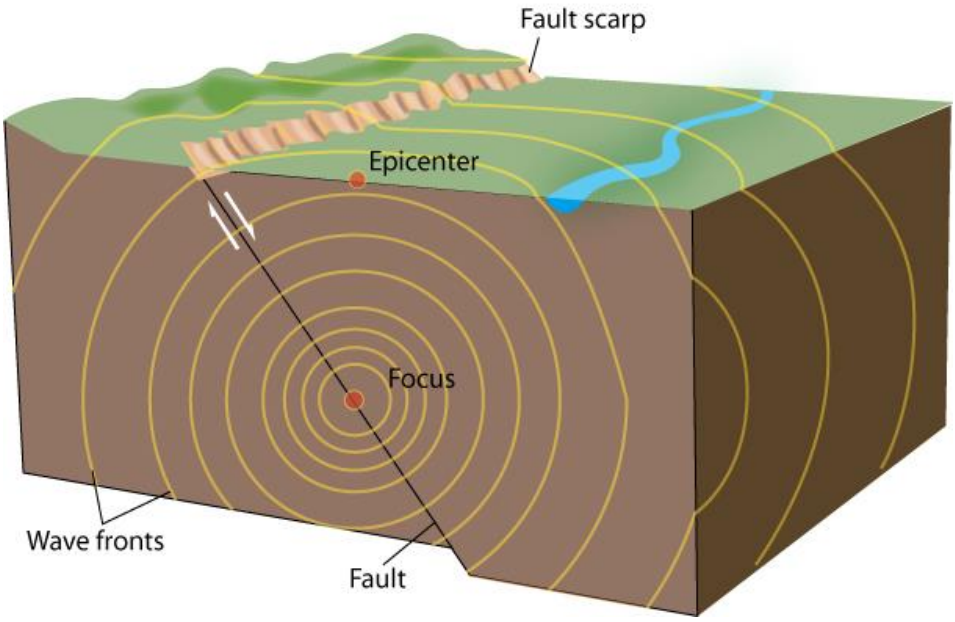
Scientists learn about our changing Earth by studying earthquakes. Earthquakes are movements or vibrations in Earth. They are caused by the release of stored energy in Earth's outer layer. This release of energy causes sudden shifts of rock as well as other kinds of changes.

Scientists "feel" and "listen to" Earth by using special instruments called *seismographs* (SIGH-muh-grafs). A seismograph detects, measures, and records the energy of earthquake vibrations.

Pressure within Earth can cause rocks in the outer layer of Earth to break. If the rocks found along a break move, the break is called a fault. When an earthquake begins, pressure from within the Earth causes rocks along faults to move and break. As they move and break, energy is released as vibrations. These vibrations are called seismic waves (SIGHZ-mik WAYVZ), or earthquake waves.

Seismic waves travel out from the focus in all directions. As seismic waves move through Earth and along its surface, they are felt as shakings and vibrations. The farther the waves travel away from the focus, the weaker they become.

Scientists use instruments to predict when an earthquake might occur. A gravity meter tells about the rise and fall of the land surface. A strain meter measures how much rocks expand and contract. A tilt meter measures changes in the tilt of the Earth's surface. This information helps scientists warn people of a possible earthquake.



17. Which of the following questions could you answer by reading article B ONLY?

RI.3.9

- ○ What tools do scientists use to predict when earthquakes may occur?
- ○ What causes an earthquake?
- ○ How strong is a magnitude 6.0 earthquake?
- ○ How can you stay safe in an earthquake?
- ○ What are seismic waves?

18. What is the main idea of article A? *RI.1.2, RI.3.9*

- ○ Stay safe during an earthquake by dropping to the floor and covering yourself.
- ○ An earthquake feels like riding a bike down a long flight of stairs.
- ○ An earthquake is the shaking, rolling, or sudden shock of the earth's surface.
- ○ The Northridge Earthquake was magnitude 6.7.

19. What is the main idea of article B? *RI.1.2, RI.3.9*

- ○ Earthquakes are movements or vibrations in Earth.
- ○ Seismic waves become weaker as they travel away from the focus.
- ○ Scientists learn about our Earth by studying earthquakes with tools like seismographs, gravity meters, strain meters, and tilt meters.
- ○ A seismograph detects the energy of earthquake vibrations.

20. How is the main idea of article A different from the main idea of article B? *RI.3.9*

- ○ Article A is mostly about what an earthquake feels like, but article B is about how scientists study earthquakes.
- ○ Article A is mostly about famous earthquakes in history, but article B is about gravity meters.
- ○ Article A is mostly about the Richter scale, but article B is mostly about pressure within Earth.
- ○ Article A is mostly about the different names for earthquakes, but article B is mostly about how to become a scientist who studies earthquakes.

21. What is the main idea of the LAST paragraph of article A? *RI.1.2, RI.3.9*

- ○ Earthquakes are caused by pressure within the Earth's surface.
- ○ During an earthquake, you may notice plants swaying.
- ○ Stay safe during an earthquake by dropping to the floor and getting under cover.
- ○ The Richter scale measures the intensity of an earthquake.

22. Reread this paragraph from article B. According to this paragraph, what happens right after pressure from within the Earth causes rocks along faults to move and break? *RI.1.3*

> Pressure within Earth can cause rocks in the outer layer of Earth to break. If the rocks found along a break move, the break is called a fault. When an earthquake begins, pressure from within the Earth causes rocks along faults to move and break. As they move and break, energy is released as vibrations. These vibrations are called seismic waves.

- ○ Seismic waves travel out from the focus in all directions.
- ○ Energy is released as vibrations called seismic waves.
- ○ A fault line forms in the Earth's outer layer.
- ○ Plants and objects start to sway and wobble.