

# Do You Like Trains?

## LESSON PLAN

### THIRD GRADE: Compare & Contrast

**OBJECTIVE:** This lesson plan was designed to help your students compare and contrast the similarities and differences between squirrels and raccoons as animals in nature, as well as characters in the book, *Do You Like Trains?*

#### Materials:

- ◆ Smartboard/Markers
- ◆ *Do You Like Trains?* Book
- ◆ Compare and Contrast Answer Guide
- ◆ Worksheet with Squirrel and Raccoon.

#### Instructions:

- ◆ Teacher draws a large Venn Diagram on the Smartboard and labels one side "Squirrel" and one side "Raccoon." The overlapping part can be labeled "Both."
- ◆ Teacher explains the lesson. "We are going to compare and contrast the squirrel and the raccoon in *Do You Like Trains?* and as animals in nature."
- ◆ Show the front cover of the book (the squirrel and the raccoon on the cover).
- ◆ Teacher will define Compare as Similarities between two things and Contrast as Differences between two things.
- ◆ Teacher reads *Do You Like Trains?* to the class while showing the pictures.
- ◆ Teacher will read the facts about squirrels and raccoons to the students asking students to follow along from their Answer Sheet and discuss the meanings of each fact.
- ◆ The teacher will then ask the students to share their ideas of what made the Squirrel and Raccoon different and the same in the story from the book, encouraging them to write these ideas down on the Answer Sheet.
- ◆ After children have shared their ideas, the teacher will then ask the students to share which of the facts are the same between squirrels and the raccoons and which are different, instructing them to complete the Venn Diagram according to the correct answers.
- ◆ Teacher will then ask the students to add their answers comparing the "Squirrel" or "Raccoon" from the book on their Venn Diagram Worksheet.

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### THIRD GRADE: Compare & Contrast (For Teacher)

#### Comparison Guide: (Animals in Nature)

**NOTE: This is on the student's worksheet.**

#### Squirrels:

#### Raccoons:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Mammals                                 | Mammals                                  |
| Very intelligent                        | Very intelligent                         |
| Omnivores                               | Omnivores                                |
| Run zig-zag to confuse predators        | Strong sense of hearing and night vision |
| Diurnal (Sleep during the night)        | Nocturnal (Sleep during the day)         |
| Twitch tails to warn other squirrels    | Communicate with different sounds        |
| Use attics, trees and barns for nesting | Use attics, trees and barns for nesting  |

#### Comparison Guide: (Characters in Book - Ideas for Teacher)

#### Squirrel:

#### Raccoon:

|                              |                                       |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Wearing a tee shirt          | Wearing a button down shirt           |
| Shirt is yellow              | Shirt is blue                         |
| Loves playing with trains    | Enjoys playing with blocks            |
| Wave at passengers on train  | Wave at passengers on train           |
| Train engine is red and blue | Blocks are red, blue and other colors |
| Has brown eyes               | Has brown eyes                        |
| Not wearing pants            | Not wearing pants                     |