

Teaching Activity Guide

TREES

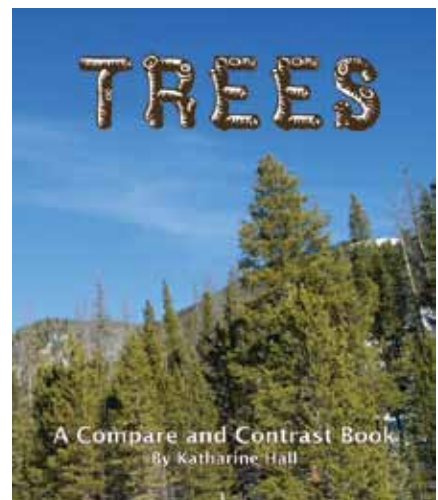
A Compare and Contrast Book
By Katharine Hall

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by Katharine Hall

How to Use This Activity Guide (General)

There are a wide variety of activities that teach or supplement all curricular areas. The activities are easily adapted up or down depending on the age and abilities of the children involved. And, it is easy to pick and choose what is appropriate for your setting and the time involved. Most activities can be done with an individual child or a group of children.

For teachers in the classroom: We understand that time is at a premium and that, especially in the early grades, much time is spent teaching language arts. All Arbordale titles are specifically selected and developed to get children excited about learning other subjects (science, geography, social studies, math, etc.) while reading (or being read to). These activities are designed to be as comprehensive and cross-curricular as possible. If you are teaching sentence structure in writing, why not use sentences that teach science or social studies? We also know and understand that you must account for all activities done in the classroom. While each title is aligned to all of the state standards (both the text and the For Creative Minds), it would be nearly impossible to align all of these activities to each state's standards at each grade level. However, we do include some of the general wording of the CORE language arts and math standards, as well as some of the very general science or social studies standards. You'll find them listed as "objectives" in italics. You should be able to match these objectives with your state standards fairly easily.

For homeschooling parents and teachers in private schools: Use as above. Aren't you glad you don't have to worry about state standards?

For parents/caregivers: Two of the most important gifts you can give your child are the love of reading and the desire to learn. Those passions are instilled in your child long before he or she steps into a classroom. Many adults enjoy reading historical fiction novels . . . fun to read but also to learn (or remember) about historical events. Not only does Arbordale publish stories that are fun to read and that can be used as bedtime books or quiet "lap" reading books, but each story has non-fiction facts woven through the story or has some underlying educational component to sneak in "learning." Use the "For Creative Minds" section in the book itself and these activities to expand on your child's interest or curiosity in the subject. They are designed to introduce a subject so you don't need to be an expert (but you will probably look like one to your child!). Pick and choose the activities to help make learning fun!

For librarians and bookstore employees; after-school program leaders; and zoo, aquarium, nature center, park & museum educators: Whether reading a book for story time or using the book to supplement an educational program, feel free to use the activities in your programs. We have done the "hard part" for you.

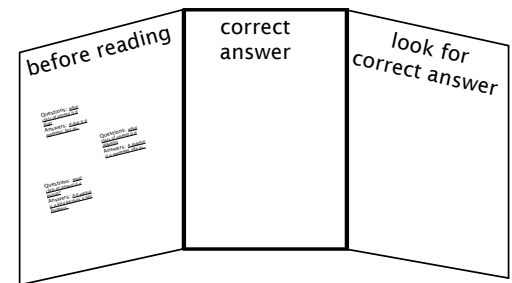
What Do Children Already Know?

Young children are naturally inquisitive and are sponges for information. The whole purpose of this activity is to help children verify the information they know (or think they know) and to get them thinking “beyond the box” about a particular subject.

Before reading the book, ask the children what they know about the subject. A list of suggested questions is below. The children should write down their “answers” (or adults for them if the children are not yet writing) on the chart found in Appendix A, index cards, or post-it notes.

Their answers should be placed on a “before reading” panel. If doing this as a group, you could use a bulletin board or even a blackboard. If doing this with individual children, you can use a plain manila folder with the front cover the “before reading” panel. Either way, you will need two more panels or sections—one called “correct answer” and the other “look for correct answer.”

Do the children have any more questions about the subject? If so, write them down to see if they are answered in the book.



After reading the book, go back to the questions and answers and determine whether the children’s answers were correct or not.

If the answer was correct, move that card to the “correct answer” panel. If the answer was incorrect, go back to the book to find the correct information.

If the children have more questions that were not answered, they should look them up.

When an answer has been found and corrected, the card can be moved to the “correct answer” panel.

Pre-Reading Questions

What is a tree?

Where in the world do trees grow?

How tall are trees?

What kind of climate do trees grow in?

What kind of habitat do trees grow in?

Do all trees lose their leaves in the fall?

What do you call a tree that keeps its leaves all year round?

Comprehension Questions & Writing Prompts

Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.

Confirm understanding of a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media by asking and answering questions about key details and requesting clarification if something is not understood.

Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.

Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.

Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.

Think of a tree. What words can you use to describe it?

Draw a picture of a tree. Write a few sentences describing your tree and its habitat.

What is an evergreen tree?

What does a broadleaf look like?

Which is taller: a giant redwood or a satsuki azalea bonsai?

Does an acacia tree grow alone or in a forest?

Think of two trees that grow near where you live. How are they alike? How are they different?

What is a place you would like to visit? Write a description of that place and the trees you might see there.

Language Arts & Science: Basic Needs

Objective: Describe the basic needs of living things and how they are met.

Plants need water, oxygen, food, light and space to grow and reproduce; animals need water, oxygen, food, and shelter/space to grow and reproduce.

Re-read the story and write down any words that relate to how the plants meet their basic needs.

Plant/ Animal	water	oxygen	food	light	space

If not mentioned in the text, are there any indications in the illustrations of how these needs are met? Can you describe, draw, or write an explanation of how the needs are met?

Language Arts: Word Families & Rhyming Words

Language Arts, Reading Standards: Foundational Skills, Recognize and produce rhyming words.

Word families are groups of words that have some of the same combinations of letters in them that make them sound alike...or rhyme. For example ad, add, bad, Brad, cad, Chad, clad, dad, fad, gad, glad, grad, had, lad, mad, pad, plaid (silent 'i'), sad, shad, and tad all have an "ad" letter combination and rhyme.

- Find and write down rhyming words in the poem.
- Are they in the same word family?
- If so, circle the combination of letters that are the same.
- Can you think of more words in the word family?

Rhyming words are:

Trees
and
Seeds

They are / are not from the same word family.

Other words that rhyme are:

Rhyming words are:

Tall
and
Small

They are / are not from the same word family.

Other words that rhyme are:

Rhyming words are:

Grow
and
Sow

They are / are not from the same word family.

Other words that rhyme are:

Rhyming words are:

Plant
and
Ant

They are / are not from the same word family.

Other words that rhyme are:

Word Search

Find the hidden words. Even non-reading children can match letters to letters to find the words! Easy—words go up to down or left to right (no diagonals). For older children, identify the coordinates of the first letter in each word (number, letter).

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	E	V	E	R	G	R	E	E	N	P
2	C	F	A	R	P	O	T	P	T	L
3	S	L	V	S	T	E	M	I	R	A
4	E	E	E	P	W	I	X	A	E	N
5	A	A	S	D	O	T	N	Z	E	K
6	P	F	L	T	R	U	N	K	O	E
7	S	D	O	O	S	E	T	A	P	W
8	C	O	N	I	F	E	R	O	D	O
9	B	K	E	V	E	R	F	R	S	O
10	L	A	C	P	L	A	N	T	O	D

CONIFER
EVERGREEN
LEAF
PLANT
STEM
TREE
TRUNK
WOOD

Edible Sorting and Classifying Activity

Objective Core Language Arts Vocabulary Acquisition and Use: Sort common objects into categories (e.g., shapes, foods) to gain a sense of the concepts the categories represent.

Objects and materials can be sorted and described by their properties. (color, shape, size, weight and texture)

Use whole numbers, up to 10, in counting, identifying, sorting, and describing objects and experiences.*

take pictures of trees in your area, or cut out pictures of trees from magazines.

Ask the children to sort the items into groups. There is no right and wrong, only what makes sense to the child. When finished, ask the child:

What feature or attribute did you use to sort the items?

- Were there some items that fit more than one group or don't fit any group?
- If so, how did the child decide which attribute was more important?
- How are various objects similar and different?
- Was it easy to sort or were there some items that were a little confusing?

If more than one person did this, did everyone sort by the same attribute? To extend the learning, graph the attributes used to sort the items (blank graph below).

Graph the attributes that children used to sort their items. (Graph provided on next page).

What was the most common attribute used?

Objective: Classify organisms according to one selected feature, such as body covering, and identify other similarities shared by organisms within each group formed.

Describe several external features and behaviors of animals that can be used to classify them (e.g., size, color, shape of body parts).

Identify observable similarities and differences (e.g., number of legs, body coverings, size) between/ among different groups of animals.

10				
9				
8				
7				
6				
5				
4				
3				
2				
1				
attribute				

Science Journal (Vocabulary)

root

my definition

my drawing

deciduous

my definition

my drawing

leaf

my definition

my drawing

evergreen

my definition

my drawing

Math Cards

Objective Core Mathematics Classify objects into given categories; count the numbers of objects in each category and sort the categories by count. (up to 10)

Solve addition and subtraction word problems, and add and subtract within 10, e.g., by using objects or drawings to represent the problem.

Use numbers, up to 10, to place objects in order, such as first, second, and third, and to name them

For any number from 1 to 9, find the number that makes 10 when added to the given number, e.g., by using objects or drawings, and record the answer with a drawing or equation.

Math Card Games

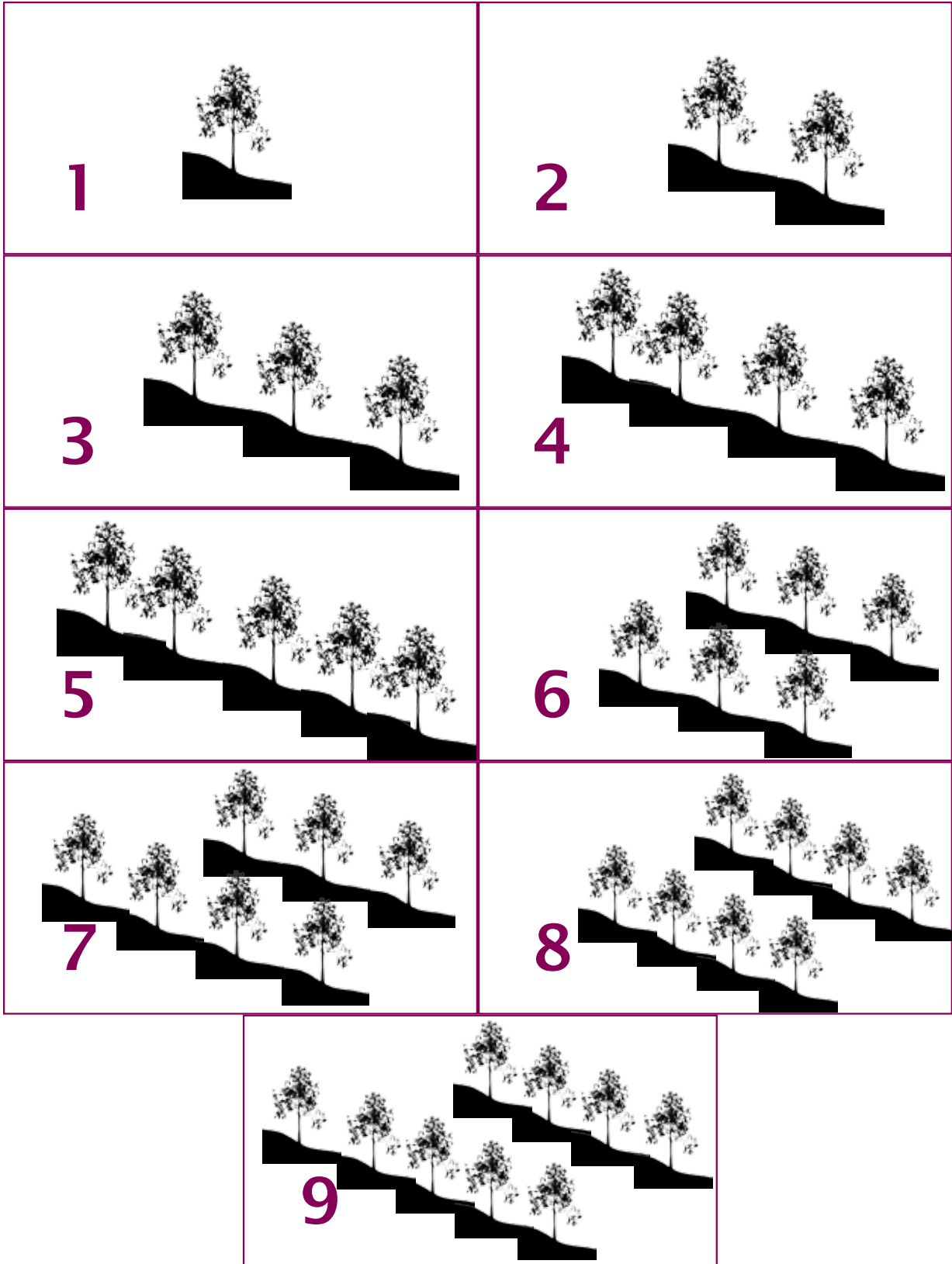
(Make four copies of the math cards to play these games):

Tens Make Friends Memory Game is a combination of a memory and adding game.

- Play like the memory game, above.
- If the animal numbers add up to 10, the child keeps the pair and takes another turn.
- If they do not add up to ten, the player should turn the cards back over and it is another player's turn.

Go Fish for Fact Families is a twist on "Go Fish."

- Shuffle cards and deal five cards to each player. Put the remaining cards face down in a draw pile.
- If the player has three cards that make a fact family, he/she places them on the table and recites the four facts related to the family. For example, if someone has a 2, 3, and 5, the facts are: $2 + 3 = 5$, $3 + 2 = 5$, $5 - 2 = 3$, $5 - 3 = 2$.
- The player then asks another player for a specific card rank. For example: "Sue, please give me a 6."
- If the other player has the requested card, she must give the person her card.
- If the person asked doesn't have that card, he/she says, "Go fish."
- The player then draws the top card from the draw pile.
- If he/she happens to draw the requested card, he/she shows it to the other players and can put the fact family on the table. Otherwise, play goes to the next person.
- Play continues until either someone has no cards left in his/her hand or the draw pile runs out. The winner is the player who then has the most sets of fact families.



Answers

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	E	V	E	R	G	R	E	E	N	
2									T	
3		L		S	T	E	M		R	
4		E							E	
5		A							E	
6		F		T	R	U	N	K		
7										W
8	C	O	N	I	F	E	R			O
9										O
10				P	L	A	N	T		D

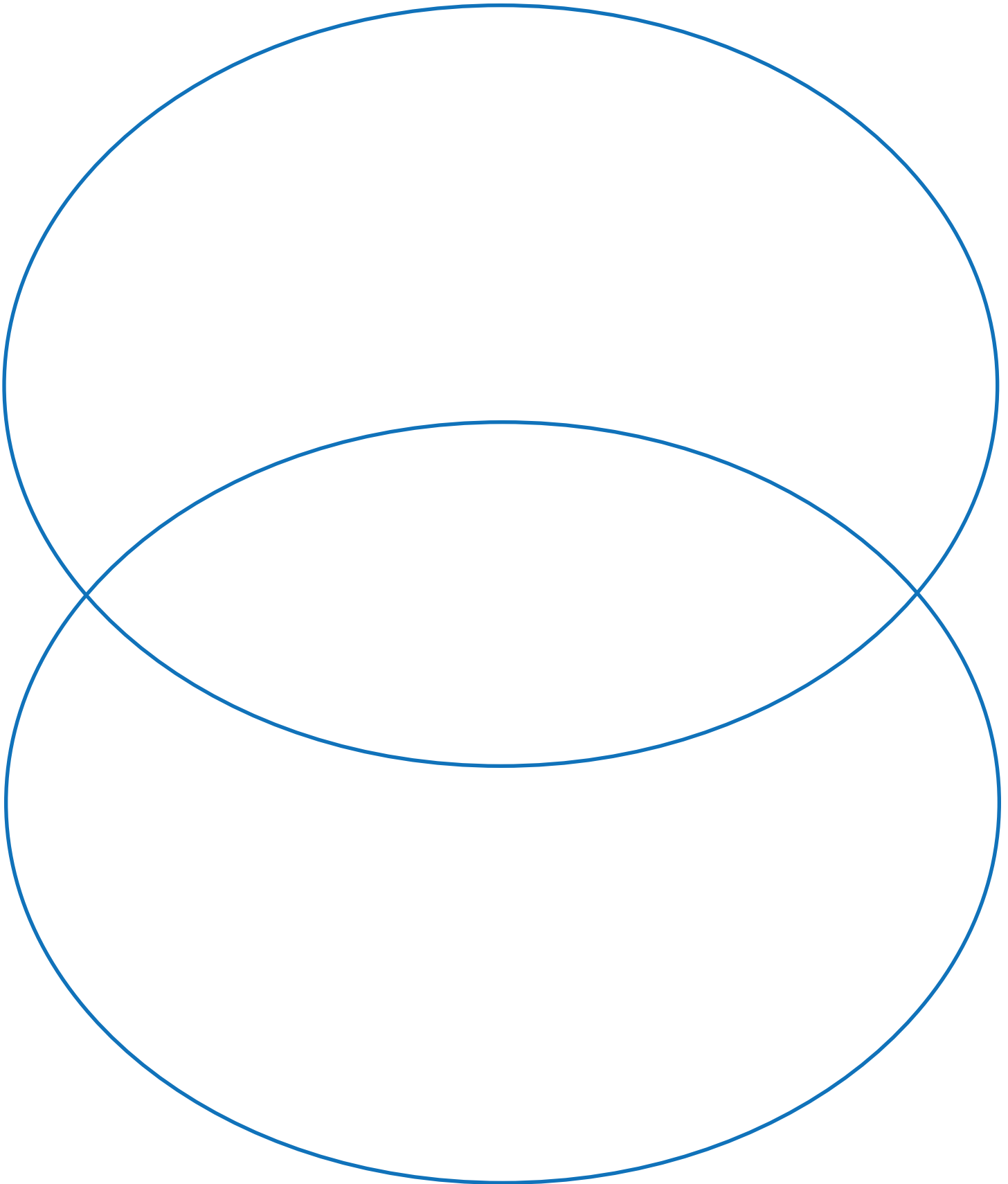
CONIFER 8,A
EVERGREEN 1,A
LEAF 3,B
PLANT 10,D
STEM 3,D
TREE 2,I
TRUNK 6,D
WOOD 7,J

Appendix A—“What Children Know” Cards

<p>Question:</p> <p>My answer:</p> <p>This information is correct! This information is not correct; can you find the correct information?</p>	<p>Question:</p> <p>My answer:</p> <p>This information is correct! This information is not correct; can you find the correct information?</p>
<p>Question:</p> <p>My answer:</p> <p>This information is correct! This information is not correct; can you find the correct information?</p>	<p>Question:</p> <p>My answer:</p> <p>This information is correct! This information is not correct; can you find the correct information?</p>

Appendix B—Venn Diagram

Compare and contrast two



Appendix C—Vocabulary Cards
