

WORDS TO KNOW

interpretation

emphasize

Lesson 34

ANALYZE MULTIPLE TEXTS
ON SAME TOPIC RI.7.9

INTRODUCTION

Real-World Connection

GEOGRAPHY CONNECTION

Ana finished her project, *Adapting to Hot Climates*. She wrote about structural adaptations that help plants survive in the desert. Here is the beginning of her report.

Adapting to Hot Climates

Organisms, such as plants and animals, adapt to their geographical location. Weather can vary greatly depending upon where a plant or animal lives, and their characteristics accommodate this wide variety of differences. These physical features are called structural adaptations.

Deserts are hot places with very little water, so organisms that live in deserts must have certain structural adaptations that allow them to survive in this kind of environment. For example, plants must be able to store water in this type of climate. Cacti are a common desert plant. A cactus is a succulent plant species that is able to store water in its stems. This structural adaptation makes it possible for these plants to survive in the desert.

Before presenting her report to her class, Ana looks it over. What facts does she include? How do these facts help shape the text's message? We will practice the skills in **Guided Instruction** and **Independent Practice** and revisit Ana and her report at the end of the lesson.

What I Am Going to Learn

- How two or more authors writing about the same topic may shape their presentations of key information in different ways
- How to analyze the way two or more authors writing about the same topic may emphasize different evidence
- How to analyze the way two or more authors writing about the same topic may present different interpretations of facts

What I May Already Know RI.5.9, RI.6.9

- I know how to draw on information from several texts about the same topic in order to write or speak knowledgeably about the subject.
- I know how to compare and contrast one author's presentation of events with that of another.

Vocabulary in Action

As you read, you will come across words that are used in a variety of ways.

- Do you always see things exactly the same way your friends do? You probably do not. Life experiences influence how you see things. Likewise, different authors may have different ways of looking at the same topic. They express their differing viewpoints in their writings. When you read two or more texts about the same topic, pay attention to each author's **interpretation** of facts, or the way the author explains and represents a topic. Think about how and why their interpretations may differ.

One author, for example, might present certain facts in a negative light. Another author might present the same facts in a positive light. The reader should be aware that texts are often influenced by the author's background and perspective. This is one reason why readers should read critically.

- An author also chooses which facts to **emphasize**. When you emphasize something, you focus on it. The information the author presents shapes the overall message of the text.

Let's say two authors each write about recycling. One might focus on the economic benefits of recycling. Another might focus on environmental benefits, such as reducing pollution or conserving natural resources. The text's message changes as a result. The emphasis an author puts on certain facts helps develop the angle by which the material is presented to the reader.

GUIDED INSTRUCTION

Bert and his classmate Trish both researched the topic of living by the water. Read this page from Bert's report. Then, read the page from Trish's report. What facts do Bert and Trish present? How do Bert and Trish interpret these facts?

► THINK ABOUT IT

Both texts share a common fact. Each author interprets this fact differently. How do the authors' viewpoints influence the messages shared with readers?

Living by the Water

Many major cities are located near rivers and oceans. The location of these cities is not a coincidence. People took advantage of the location's geography to help their towns prosper.

By settling in a coastal town, residents found that a water supply was readily available. Not only could it provide water for them to drink, but it provided water for growing crops. Also, the fertile land allowed farmers to produce more food, and the bodies of water provided another food source, such as fish. Finally, cities built near water gave people easier access to trade routes since a lot of goods are transported on ships.

Coastal towns are occasionally faced with hurricanes. Residents of coastal towns should always be prepared for hurricanes. Residents should keep a supply kit for emergencies. A supply kit would include things like a radio, a flashlight, and batteries in case of power outages. Fresh water and canned goods will provide necessary meals until the storm passes. In extreme cases, evacuation plans will keep people safe. The threat of an occasional hurricane is not a reason to avoid living in coastal cities. The benefits of living in these areas far outweigh the inconvenience of a storm.

Storms by the Water

A coastal city is not a good location to buy a home or raise a family because the entire city can be wiped out in a moment's notice. It only takes one good storm.

Coastal cities near the equator are most likely to be hit by hurricanes. Hurricanes form in oceans over warm water. When a storm has a wind speed of 39 miles per hour, it is called a tropical storm. Once winds reach 74 miles per hour, the tropical storm becomes a hurricane.

A hurricane causes major damage to everything in its path. The strong wind speed knocks down power lines, leaving residents without electricity and making it difficult to keep food cold in the refrigerator. The air conditioner in houses won't work, making homes extremely hot. Streets and homes could flood with up to several feet of water. Entire neighborhoods could end up underwater. Hurricanes are a real threat every year for these coastal towns.

Long ago, major cities were developed alongside rivers or oceans. The location provided villagers with much needed resources that bodies of water provide. However, advances in technology have allowed people to move inland. People who live inland have better access to resources, such as clean drinking water, eliminating their need to live in coastal towns.

This chart compares important findings from each report. Can you complete the chart?

LIVING BY THE WATER	STORMS BY THE WATER
One benefit of living by the water is that water is readily available for drinking, fishing, and growing crops.	One disadvantage of living by the water is that
Another benefit is that	Another disadvantage is that

Part A

Which statement **best** shows how the two texts compare the threat of hurricanes to coastal towns?

- (A) Both texts acknowledge the severe effects hurricanes have on coastal towns.
- (B) Both texts emphasize that hurricanes can cause power outages and other serious problems for coastal residents.
- (C) “Living by the Water” emphasizes the many advantages coastal towns have, but “Storms by the Water” emphasizes the harmful effects of hurricanes on coastal towns.
- (D) “Living by the Water” argues that residents have better access to economical resources, but “Storms by the Water” argues that technology has brought this access inland.

Part B

Underline **one** detail in each text that **best** supports the answer to Part A.

HINT, HINT

Ask yourself, “What facts do each of the authors emphasize in the texts?” Look at the authors’ interpretations or viewpoints of the facts and select an answer choice that shows how the authors shaped their texts.

How Am I Doing?

What questions do you have?

Think about two websites, articles, or other texts about the same topic that you have read. What facts did the authors emphasize in their writing?

How do the authors' interpretations of the facts differ?

Color in the traffic signal that shows how you are doing with the skill.



INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

Read two articles about volcanoes, written by two different authors.
Then answer the questions that follow.

The Virtues of a Volcano

Genre: Magazine Article

- 1 What do Tokyo, Mexico City, and Manila have in common? These three places are all megacities. This means they are some of the largest cities in the world. Each has a population of over ten million people, but they share another unusual trait: Tokyo, Mexico City, and Manila are all located near historically active volcanoes—Mount Fuji, Popocatepetl, and Taal, respectively. Sixty-four other cities with populations over 100,000 are also located on or near volcanoes. In fact, across the world, one out of every ten people lives in a volcanic region.
- 2 Volcanoes have a reputation for being deadly and destructive. They can cover entire cities and towns with magma and ash as they erupt. So why would anyone choose to live so close to one? It may come as a surprise to hear it, but living near a volcano has considerable advantages. Fertile soil, rich natural resources, and readily available energy supplies come with the territory.
- 3 Many of Asia's rice fields are planted around volcanoes for valid reasons. A volcanic eruption emits ash and lava which settles into the ground. Over time, these emissions decompose, bonding with the organic matter present in the earth. The result is soil that is nutrient-rich, porous, and low in density. Volcanic regions form some of the most agriculturally productive lands on the planet. This decomposition takes time; today, the area around the city of Naples, Italy (where the mighty Mount Vesuvius is still active) produces a wealth of grapes, tomatoes, and citrus trees. It owes this abundance to eruptions that occurred tens of thousands of years ago. The rich farmland of volcanic regions nourishes both their residents and the local economy.
- 4 Agriculture is not the only industry that is nourished by volcanoes. The magma that rises from within them may be hotter than fire, but it contains a wide range of minerals. Due to the processes that occur within volcanoes as they erupt, the igneous rocks that form when magma cools can contain deposits of tin, lead, zinc, copper, silver, and gold. Even diamonds have been found within hardened magma! Some minerals, like opals and obsidian, are produced only through volcanic processes. Other volcanic minerals include rare metals such as eudialyte, which is valued by the space industry for its heat and corrosion resistance. Even the hot gases that escape from vents in a volcano produce non-metallic minerals like sulfur, which is collected and used for medicines and as an ingredient

READING NOTES

READING NOTES

in matches. Because of the value of these natural resources, many of the world's mines are located near active and dormant volcanoes.

5 If you know anything at all about volcanoes, you know they are capable of producing an enormous amount of heat. What you may not know is that this heat can be very helpful when it is harnessed to generate electricity. Geothermal power, produced from the heat within the Earth, is commonly used to heat homes and power turbines in volcanic regions. To produce geothermal power, deep wells are drilled into rocks and filled with water, creating steam that is converted to electricity. In Iceland, a small island in the North Atlantic Ocean that is home to roughly 130 volcanoes, 30 percent of all electricity comes from geothermal sources.

6 The thought of a volcanic eruption can be frightening, but before you dismiss the idea of living near a volcano, think about the fact that some of the most beautiful places on Earth were created by volcanic activity. Yellowstone, the United States' oldest National Park, sits atop the world's largest known supervolcano, containing many times the volume of magma of an average volcano. The peaceful, calm Hawaiian Islands are among many islands that were created by volcanic eruptions on the ocean floor. Living with a volcano has more benefits than disadvantages—and that is why over half a billion people worldwide choose to do so.

Volcanoes: Avoid at All Costs!

Genre: Magazine Article

1 In 1748, a group of explorers came across the Campania region of southern Italy. They were searching for ancient artifacts, but what they found far exceeded their expectations. As they began to dig, they soon realized they had stumbled upon one of the most fascinating—and disturbing—archaeological finds in history. Buried underneath millions of tons of volcanic ash was the great city of Pompeii. Incredibly well-preserved human bodies, buildings, and even household objects and foods were arranged precisely as they had been at the time of the natural disaster.

2 Nearly two thousand years ago, Pompeii was a bustling city. Its streets were lined with elegant houses and villas filled with paintings and mosaics. The wealthiest Roman citizens lived in the shadow of the towering volcano, Mount Vesuvius. That changed in 79 A.D., when Vesuvius, an active volcano, erupted. The blast sent ashes, rock, and red-hot gases into the air. When this giant blast cooled, the debris fell, covering the city. Pompeii was destroyed forever, along with two thousand residents who had no time to make it to safety.

3 The eruption that destroyed Pompeii happened in ancient times, but that does not mean a modern-day volcanic eruption is less severe. When rescuers arrived in Armero, Colombia in November of 1985, they saw

fallen trees, destroyed cars and homes, and mud in every direction. Colombia's largest volcano, Nevado del Ruiz, had just erupted for the first time in over a century. The eruption, immediately followed by a major storm, created an avalanche of mud. The mudflows sped down the side of the volcano at over thirty miles an hour, breaking a dam and reaching the town of Armero two hours later. The avalanche caused by Nevado del Ruiz's eruption covered Armero in mud, just as Mount Vesuvius had covered Pompeii in ash. Twenty-three thousand people died in that disaster. All of the roughly eight thousand survivors in Armero were left homeless.

- 4 The residents of Pompeii and Armero took a great risk when deciding to live near volcanoes. Hundreds of millions of people do the same today. Safety measures in place today usually allow populations to be evacuated upon the earliest signs of a volcanic eruption, but that means abandoning their homes, workplaces, transportation systems, farms, and electrical grids. The ash and magma from a volcanic eruption can quickly undo work that has taken many years to complete. A powerful explosion can permanently change the land for tens of miles around the volcano.
- 5 Aside from immediate damage, the gases from a volcano can be similarly dangerous. Beneath the ground, magma contains volcanic gases. They are released into the atmosphere when the magma emerges during an eruption. Some of these gases, such as water vapor, are harmless. Others, like sulfur dioxide, carbon dioxide, and hydrogen fluoride, are toxic. They can poison humans and animals, causing them long-term harm. They also contribute to air pollution and smog and affect the earth's surface temperature.
- 6 Volcanic ash itself is a pollutant, even in eruptions that do not immediately damage the environment. As the ash falls, it can gather on roofs and in gutters, causing buildings to collapse. Volcanic ash destroys entire farms and shuts down power systems. Roads covered with volcanic ash are slippery and hazardous to drive on, and the ash can corrode vehicles and other machinery. When ash contaminates the water supply, it not only makes the water unsafe to drink but also causes damage to plumbing and wastewater systems. Winds can carry volcanic ash for great distances, affecting entire volcanic regions in addition to areas directly near volcanoes.
- 7 When you live near volcanoes, the greatest threats to your safety might not come from volcanoes themselves. Most volcanoes are located near the edges of the earth's tectonic plates—which happen to also be where most earthquakes occur. Like volcanic eruptions, the movement of magma beneath the earth's surface usually causes earthquakes. Earthquakes and eruptions often happen concurrently, as the movement of the earth can loosen the rock within a dormant volcano, opening any blockages. While a volcanic eruption can cause great damage, imagine what devastation can occur when an earthquake shakes the ground at the same time.

READING NOTES

- 8 For the people who live near them, volcanoes can cause both minor inconveniences and extreme destruction. While there may be advantages to living near volcanic regions, they are not worth the risk. The people of Pompeii, Armero, and countless other towns have shown us that when choosing a place to live, volcanoes should be avoided at all costs.

1. Read these sentences from paragraph 2 of "The Virtues of a Volcano."

"Volcanoes have a reputation for being deadly and destructive. They can cover entire cities and towns with magma and ash as they erupt."

▶ THINK ABOUT IT

Think about how the text would change if the author had not included the sentences.

Which statement **best** explains why the author might have included these sentences in paragraph 2?

- (A) The author informs readers about exactly what comes out of volcanoes.
- (B) The author wants readers to understand how most people think about volcanoes.
- (C) The author warns readers about specific destruction that might occur to persuade them to move.
- (D) The author acknowledges the opposing point of view in order to prove that the benefits outweigh the risks.
2. Which **two** details **best** show how the author of "The Virtues of Volcanoes" shows that living near volcanic regions is worth the risk?
- (A) "These three places are all megacities. This means they are some of the largest cities in the world." (paragraph 1)
- (B) "one out of every ten people lives in a volcanic region." (paragraph 1)
- (C) "Fertile soil, rich natural resources, and readily available energy supplies come with the territory." (paragraph 2)
- (D) "A volcanic eruption emits ash and lava which settles into the ground." (paragraph 3)
- (E) "they are capable of producing an enormous amount of heat." (paragraph 5)
- (F) "Yellowstone, the United States' oldest National Park, sits atop the world's largest known supervolcano" (paragraph 6)

3. Select the **three** details from "Volcanoes: Avoid at All Costs!" that **best** show the dangers associated with living near volcanoes.

"Buried underneath millions of tons of volcanic ash was the great city of Pompeii." (paragraph 1)

"The avalanche caused by Nevado del Ruiz's eruption covered Armero in mud, just as Mount Vesuvius had covered Pompeii in ash." (paragraph 3)

"Safety measures . . . allow populations to be evacuated upon the earliest signs of a volcanic eruption, but that means abandoning their homes, workplaces, transportation systems, farms, and electrical grids." (paragraph 4)

"Volcanic ash itself is a pollutant, even in eruptions that do not immediately damage the environment." (paragraph 6)

"The people of Pompeii, Armero, and countless other towns have shown us that when choosing a place to live, volcanoes should be avoided at all costs." (paragraph 8)

TIPS AND TRICKS

This question asks about only one of the texts. Make sure your answers are really in that text and not the other.

EVIDENCE

4. Which statement **best** describes the topic of both articles?

- (A) Both articles are about living near volcanoes.
- (B) Both articles are about the cities built near volcanoes.
- (C) Both articles are about the benefits of living near volcanoes.
- (D) Both articles are about the dangers of living near volcanoes.

► TIPS AND TRICKS

Look at the key details or examples the author provides in a text. How the author interprets this information shapes the text.

5. Part A

Which statement **best** explains the authors' main messages?

- (A) "The Virtues of a Volcano" tries to prove that volcanoes are beneficial to agriculture, while "Volcanoes: Avoid at All Costs!" tries to prove that volcanoes are destructive to agriculture.
- (B) "The Virtues of a Volcano" tries to prove that volcanoes build beautiful places such as Yellowstone, while "Volcanoes: Avoid at All Costs!" tries to warn readers that volcanoes destroy cities.
- (C) "The Virtues of a Volcano" tries to prove that living near a volcano provides residents with rich natural resources, while "Volcanoes: Avoid at All Costs!" tries to warn readers of all the dangers of volcanic ash.
- (D) "The Virtues of a Volcano" tries to prove that there are more advantages than disadvantages to living near a volcano, while "Volcanoes: Avoid at All Costs!" tries to prove the opposite.

Part B

Underline **one** key sentence from each text that supports that answer to Part A.

6. Part A

Which statement **best** shows how the authors treat the idea of volcanoes affecting power sources?

- (A) The first text discusses the benefits of geothermal energy; the second text discusses how a volcanic eruption disrupts power supplies.
- (B) The second text discusses how volcanoes supply energy; the first text discusses how earthquakes disrupt power facilities.
- (C) The first text discusses the benefits of geothermal energy; the second text discusses how earthquakes can devastate energy supplies.
- (D) The first text discusses the benefits of natural resources volcanoes produce; the second text discusses the devastation of leaving behind electrical grids.

Part B

Which evidence from both passages **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ “Geothermal power . . . is commonly used to heat homes and power turbines in volcanic regions.” (“The Virtue of Volcanoes,” paragraph 5)
- “Volcanic ash . . . shuts down power systems.” (“Volcanoes: Avoid at All Costs!,” paragraph 6)
- Ⓑ “Because of the value of these natural resources, many of the world’s mines are located near active and dormant volcanoes.” (“The Virtues of Volcanoes,” paragraph 4)
- “. . . that means abandoning their homes, workplaces, transportation systems, farms, and electrical grids.” (“Volcanoes: Avoid at All Costs!,” paragraph 4)
- Ⓒ “Fertile soil, rich natural resources, and readily available energy supplies come with the territory.” (“The Virtue of Volcanoes,” paragraph 2)
- “The ash and magma from a volcanic eruption can quickly undo work [of] many years . . .” (“Volcanoes: Avoid at All Costs!,” paragraph 4)
- Ⓓ “To produce geothermal power, deep wells are drilled into rocks and filled with water, creating steam that is converted to electricity.” (“The Virtue of Volcanoes,” paragraph 5)
- “While a volcanic eruption can cause great damage, imagine what devastation can occur when an earthquake shakes the ground at the same time.” (“Volcanoes: Avoid at All Costs!,” paragraph 7)

EXIT TICKET

RI.7.9

Now that you have mastered the art of analyzing multiple texts on the same topic, let's revisit the **Real-World Connection**. You have read the beginning of Ana's report about structural adaptations. Now read this portion of a report on the same topic by Ana's classmate, Ethan.

Adapting to Cold Climates

Some organisms experience very cold climates. Temperatures can fall below zero, making survival difficult. Penguins have specialized structural anatomy that allows them to thrive in these frigid conditions. For example, their feathers are designed to keep them warm. A layer of fat under their skin also helps keep their bodies insulated. Their short beaks allow them to catch fish to eat. These physical adaptations allow penguins to survive in their environment.



Complete the chart to compare key facts Ana and Ethan choose to emphasize in their reports. Think about how the facts each writer presents shape the text.

ADAPTING TO HOT CLIMATES	ADAPTING TO COLD CLIMATES
Fact: Deserts are hot places with little water.	Fact:
Fact: Plants have structural adaptations that help them survive extreme weather conditions.	Fact:
Fact: A cactus can store water in its stem so it can survive in the desert.	Fact: