

Comparing and Contrasting Science and Myth

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When **comparing** you seek similarities between objects, events, or ideas. When **contrasting** you seek differences between them.

You use compare and contrast when you

- make most decisions; for example, you compare and contrast movies before you decide which one to see
- visit a new friend in his or her home; you might compare and contrast the lifestyle of your friend's family against your own
- compare the book to the movie based on the book

In what other situations would you compare and contrast?

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Cluster Question: How does myth explain nature?

Directions: The chart on the following screens lists several natural phenomena. Basic scientific explanations are on the left. Make up possible mythical explanations on the right. You do not need to know or guess how the myths you will be reading explain these phenomena; just have fun making up your own explanations. Then, write a sentence or two explaining which type of explanation you like best—scientific or mythical—and why.

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Natural Phenomena	Scientific Explanation	Mythical Explanation
thunder	the sound that follows a flash of lightning, caused by sudden expansion in the air in the path of an electrical discharge	<i>A teenage god is rollerblading on the slopes of Mt. Olympus.</i>

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Natural Phenomena	Scientific Explanation	Mythical Explanation
wind	movement of air due to large scale currents caused by pressure differences from place to place	

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Natural Phenomena	Scientific Explanation	Mythical Explanation
lunar eclipse	the hiding of the moon that occurs when the moon passes through the shadow cast by earth in the sun's light	

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Natural Phenomena	Scientific Explanation	Mythical Explanation
tide	periodic rise and fall of the ocean level caused by the gravitational effect of the moon and sun	

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Statement on whether I prefer scientific or mythical explanations
and why:
