



Life Cycles: Compare & Contrast

Grade Level

Grade 3

Objectives

This activity is designed to help your at-home student recognize themselves as scientists and think critically about problem-solving. The goal is to teach concepts through discovery and to encourage using scientific thought processes. As with all lessons provided, please feel free to adapt them according to your students' abilities. Take these ideas, make them your own and your students will have a greater chance at success.

Procedures

1. Start by asking your student to think about different types of animals (mammal, insect, reptile, etc.).
2. Explain to your student that they are scientists that have just begun to study life cycles. For this activity, they will be considering several different animals with diverse life cycles: butterfly, dog, eagle, koala, python and salamander. Ask them to consider what they already know about these animals' life cycles and to keep that in mind as they move on to the worksheet.
3. Your student should choose two of the life cycles provided. They should write the name of their first animal at the top of one circle and write the name of the other animal at the top of the second circle.
4. Your student should use the Venn diagram in the worksheet below to compare and contrast the life cycles of their chosen species. If your student is unfamiliar with Venn diagrams, explain that Venn diagrams consist of overlapping circles. One circle will have the name of one animal. The other circle will have the name of a different animal. Similarities, or traits that both animals have, should be listed in the area where the circles overlap. Differences should be listed in the areas where the circles do not overlap.
5. You can have your student(s) make multiple Venn diagrams comparing and contrasting different animals.
6. For advanced students: create a Venn diagram with three circles where three animals are compared on the same diagram. Traits that all three animals have are listed where all three circles overlap. Traits that only two animals have are listed where those two circles overlap.

7. Conclude by discussing the differences and similarities that they found among the life cycles. Finally, ask them to consider how a human life cycle fits into the diagram.

Standards

Ohio Academic Content Standards
Grade 3 Life Science Topic: Behavior, Growth and Changes Plants and animals have life cycles that are part of their adaptations for survival in their natural environments.



Life Cycles: Compare & Contrast Worksheet

Different types of animals have different life cycles. Some life cycle stages may be the same and some may be different.

butterfly
koala

dog
python

eagle
salamander

1. Choose two animals from the list above. You will be comparing the life cycles of these animals using a Venn diagram. Which animals did you choose?

2. Do you know the life cycle stages of the animals you chose? If not, it's time to do some research! Use the space below to write what you know or what you researched about the life cycle stages of your chosen animals.

3. It's time to put your information from #1 and #2 onto your Venn diagram. List the life cycle stages that are similar for both animals where the circles overlap. List the stages that are different in each animal's individual circle.

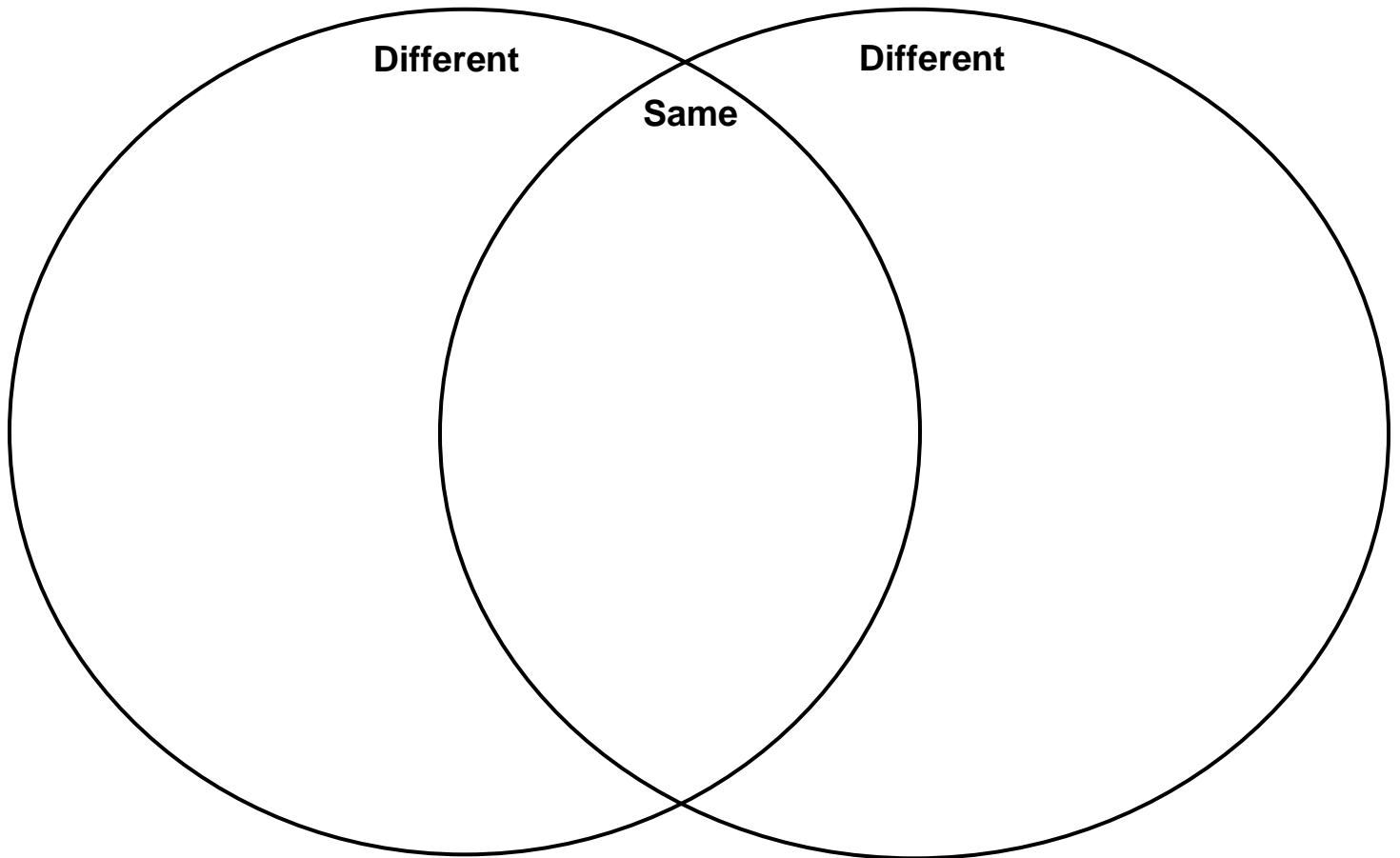
4. In the two animals that you chose, were there more similarities or more differences?

5. Want to challenge yourself? Use the three circle Venn diagram and add another animal into your comparisons!

Venn Diagram

Animal 1:

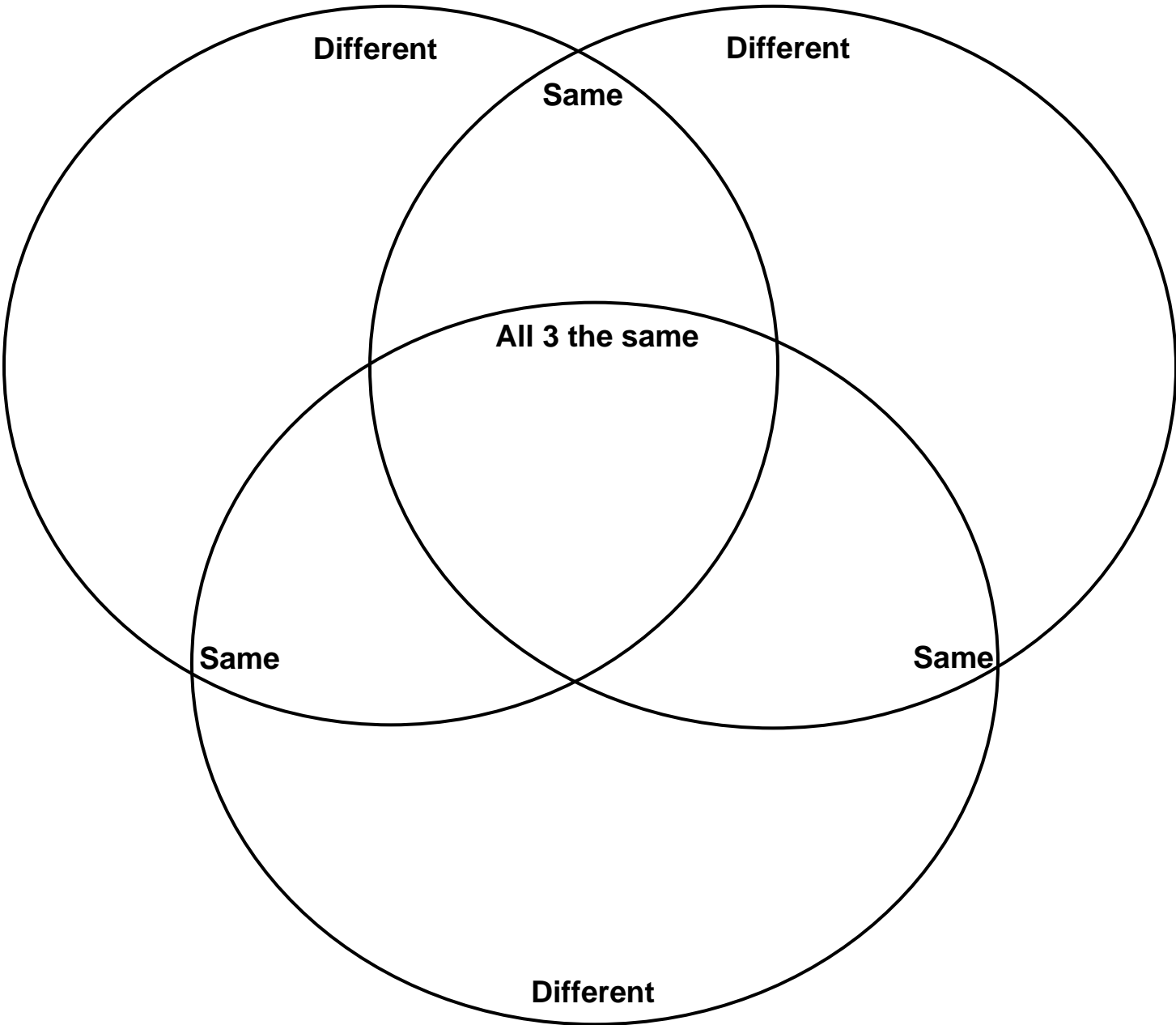
Animal 2:



Venn Diagram

Animal 1:

Animal 2:



Animal 3:
