Suppose a friend told you her baby sister was as sweet as pumpkin pie. Your friend compared two very different things—a baby and a pie—to help you understand just how adorable her sister is.

Authors use comparisons, too. They may use them to show how two people, ideas, or events are similar or different. They may also use an unusual comparison to make the reader stop and think. They may also use analogies, or extended comparisons, to help present and explain complex ideas.

Look at the image. Think about the sign and the message it is sending about oranges.

So, what do you think about the comparison? Why connect oranges to bits of sunshine?

Read the chart below. It tells you how and why the sign is comparing two different things.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Object/Idea</th>
<th>What It’s Being Compared To</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>oranges, which the vendor wants to sell</td>
<td>sunshine, which makes people feel happy and healthy</td>
<td>to show that oranges will make the buyer feel happy and healthy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By analyzing the comparisons and analogies in a text, you can uncover additional layers of meaning in what the author is writing. There really are times when it really is helpful to compare apples to oranges!
Read the first two paragraphs of an account about the history of food in Puerto Rico.

A Delicious Taste of History  by Ladonna Jackson

Did you know that dinner can be a history lesson? The history of Puerto Rico, located in the northeastern Caribbean, is reflected in its dishes—everything from pineapples to arroz con pollo (chicken with rice) is influenced by the story of the island's residents and visitors.

Puerto Rico's first inhabitants were the Taino, and they ate food native to the island. This included different tubers, or roots, such as potatoes and yams, as well as herbs, beans, and peppers. When Spanish explorers arrived in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries, they brought Spanish foods to Puerto Rico. Chiefly, they introduced chicken, pork, and beef. African slaves traveling with Europeans brought foods such as okra and coffee, as well as the cooking method of deep-frying food. Both groups shaped inhabitants' diets, and many “authentic” Puerto Rican dishes, such as chicken and rice, came about after people from Europe and Africa arrived.

Explore how to answer these questions: “What does the author mean when she compares dinner to a history lesson? How is this analogy developed throughout this part of the account?”

Think about the connections between a country’s history, people, and food.

Complete the chart below by analyzing the author’s analogy between dinner and history.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Object/Idea</th>
<th>What It’s Being Compared To</th>
<th>What Is the Connection?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dinner, which can include food from different places and cultures</td>
<td>a history lesson, which tells about earlier people and events</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What is the relationship between people from Europe and Africa and Puerto Rican food? On the lines below, explain how this information continues the author’s analogy.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
When Puerto Rico became a territory of the United States, American influences also crept into the cuisine. Foods such as saltine crackers and Vienna sausages became standards in Puerto Rican kitchens. Additionally, the oil used to fry foods changed. Olive oil, introduced by the Spanish, was replaced by corn oil and lard, which could be made locally or brought in from the United States and was less expensive.

Puerto Rico’s food is always changing and growing. It is a tropical island with a truly global menu.

Underline details that show how becoming a U.S. territory affected the food of Puerto Rico.

Circle the correct answer.

Why does the author include the paragraph about the Americans?

A to show how another group influenced Puerto Rico’s food
B to prove that Americans brought expensive food to Puerto Rico
C to illustrate the connection between different types of cooking oil
D to compare food in Puerto Rico to food in the United States

Show Your Thinking

Explain why the you chose the answer you did.

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

With a partner, discuss the distinctions the author made between the Spanish, African, and American influences on Puerto Rican food.
Lesson 4
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L4: Analyzing Comparisons and Analogies

Part 4: Guided Practice

Read the social studies account. Use the Study Buddy and the Close Reading to guide your reading.

The Many Faces of Nigerian Food
by Theodore Schaffer

1. Nigeria, located on the western coast of Africa, is a country of diversity. From the hundreds of ethnic groups who live there to the varied geography, Nigeria has many faces. Even the food reflects this diversity, for the “traditional” dishes of Nigeria look different across the country.

2. One of the most common dishes in both Nigeria and throughout western Africa is the dish jollof (JO-loff) rice. Most jollof rice recipes begin with rice, tomatoes, onions, and salt, but from there the variations are endless. People in the southern part of the country may eat it with seafood because they are near the Atlantic Ocean, while those in the north might choose to add beef or chicken. Vegetables such as squash or pumpkin can be added as well. Jollof rice is eaten at almost any time, though if it’s part of breakfast, then it was likely the meal from the night before. Leftovers are popular for breakfast throughout Nigeria.

3. Another popular Nigerian dish with endless variations is a type of soup or stew made from peanuts, which are called “groundnuts” in Africa. Peanuts, tomatoes, and onions are the ingredients that typically start this dish, but anything from goat and lamb to different kinds of beans, grains, or vegetables can be added. The dish, like most dishes in Nigeria, is preferred spicy, so peppers also play a large role in the food.

4. Of course, there are dozens of other popular dishes found throughout the country that have many variations. The diversity of the Nigerian people and the landscape will always mean that every dish has its own special spin.
Part 4: Guided Practice

Hints

Think about how the author switches from one dish to the next. Look for a transition word that signals a similarity.

What detail does the author give about the geography of southern Nigeria?

How are versions of the jollof rice and groundnut stew dishes like different faces?

Use the Hints on this page to help you answer the questions.

1. How does the author connect the rice dish jollof to groundnut stew?
   A. Both dishes are described as foods that are preferred spicy.
   B. The author points out that both have many variations.
   C. The author explains that both are popular breakfast meals.
   D. Both dishes usually contain rice and peanuts.

2. What distinction can you make between the diets of people in northern Nigeria and people in southern Nigeria?
   A. People in southern Nigeria eat more chicken.
   B. People in northern Nigeria eat more jollof.
   C. People in southern Nigeria eat more seafood.
   D. People in northern Nigeria eat fewer groundnuts.

3. Explain the analogy in the account’s title, “The Many Faces of Nigerian Food.” Discuss its purpose and cite examples of how the idea of Nigeria having many faces is present throughout the text. Use at least two details from the passage to support your response.

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   ____________________________________________
Read the economic account. Then answer the questions that follow.

from “The Egg Business Lays an Egg”

by Stanley A. Freed and Ruth S. Freed, Faces Magazine

1. The egg business seemed like a good idea to Sultan Singh, an Indian farmer who lived near Delhi, the capital of India. He could easily maintain some chickens on his farm, raising much of their food himself, and the rapidly growing city of Delhi was a dependable market. Sultan Singh was young, smart, and industrious, just the kind of farmer the government of India was depending on to lead the new burst of rural development that was needed for India to play an important role in the modern world.

2. Sultan Singh mentioned his plan to us while we were researching and living in his village of about eight hundred people in 1958. He seemed to have thought of everything, and we thought the plan had a good chance of success.

3. Not all the signs were favorable, however. The chief problem, we thought, would be the fact that many Indians who practice Hinduism, the main religion of India, are strict vegetarians who refuse to eat eggs. Sultan Singh was aware of this practice, but he knew that many non-vegetarians lived in Delhi, and he believed he would find plenty of customers there.

4. Another problem that had occurred to us but did not seem to bother Sultan Singh was that raising poultry was an occupation of low esteem; in fact, many people scorned it. Sultan Singh, a well-educated man with a good job outside his farm, was not concerned about his neighbors’ opinion of him. To him, business was business.

5. At the time, the poultry business in Sultan Singh’s village was entirely in the hands of the lowest of the thirteen village castes. Caste, a distinctive feature of Indian society, is a hierarchy of social groups into which people are born. Marriage outside the caste is generally prohibited by custom, and the traditional occupations of people belonging to a particular caste play a part in fixing the caste’s rank in society. Sultan Singh’s caste was near the top of the hierarchy. It was a measure of his self-confidence, and also of the changing times in India, that he was willing to engage in a business that was traditionally carried on by low-caste people.

6. Before Sultan Singh started his egg business, there were only about twenty hens and four roosters in the village, and these were divided among ten low-caste families. Raised as table birds and for their eggs, chickens were relatively costly; a large one sold for about three times the daily pay of a farm laborer. Chickens were sold both inside and outside the village. The few eggs produced generally were consumed in the village, and some were sold to those high-caste individuals who would eat them. The stricter vegetarians among the high castes frowned on this practice, so the sale of eggs was conducted quietly. At the time of year when eggs were most expensive, a farm laborer could buy only six with his daily wage.

7. We left the village shortly before Sultan Singh put his plan into operation and did not return until twenty years later, when we paid a visit to his farm. Sultan Singh was not at home, but his brother, Ran Singh, welcomed us. We asked about the egg business, and Ran Singh told us what had happened.
His brother had started the business just after we left the village and for several years operated it in a small way with the eggs from a hundred or so chickens. When Sultan Singh went to England, Ran Singh took over the business. He quickly expanded it to three thousand birds and continued at that level for three years. In the final year, he lost twenty-two thousand rupees and had to sell his chickens as table birds, putting him out of business.

He complained that no one can make money in the egg business, but not because of Hindu vegetarianism. The problem involves the concept of “hot” and “cold” foods, which refers to the qualities of foods, not their temperature. Hot foods are thought to produce heat in the body and generally are eaten during the cold season; cold foods produce coolness in the body and are more appropriate for the hot months. The concept of hot and cold foods is widespread in the world, from India through the Mediterranean region and Latin America.

Indians believe that eggs are very hot and generally eat them only in December and January, the two coldest months of the year. Ran Singh said that in his last year in the egg business, he began to lose money in February, and in only two or three months, he had lost his twenty-two thousand rupees. Although he had abandoned the egg business several years before we saw him, he complained that he still had not recovered financially from the disaster.

Answer the questions. Mark your answers to questions 1–3 on the Answer Form to the right.

1 Sultan Singh differed from most people in his village in that he was willing to do work that was well below his caste. Which sentence from the passage best supports this statement?

A. “Sultan Singh was aware of this practice, but he knew that many non-vegetarians lived in Delhi, and he believed he would find plenty of customers there.”

B. “At the time, the poultry business in Sultan Singh’s village was entirely in the hands of the lowest of the thirteen village castes.”

C. “Raised as table birds and for their eggs, chickens were relatively costly; a large one sold for about three times the daily pay of a farm laborer.”

D. “The stricter vegetarians among the high castes frowned on this practice, so the sale of eggs was conducted quietly.”

Answer Form
1 A B C D
2 A B C D
3 A B C D

Number Correct 3
2. When Ran Singh took over his brother’s egg business, he expanded the operation from about 100 chickens to more than 3,000. Which statement accurately describes the impact this event had on the people in the area?

A. It had little effect because people could not afford the eggs.
B. It made eggs a more important part of people’s daily diet.
C. It helped people see the value of working below your caste.
D. It had almost no effect due to people’s beliefs about eating eggs.

3. Which statement accurately compares Sultan Singh and Ran Singh?

A. Sultan Singh managed his business with caution, but Ran Singh was overly ambitious.
B. Sultan Singh was old-fashioned, but Ran Singh had a keen eye for future opportunities.
C. Sultan Singh honored the caste system tradition, but Ran Singh had little respect for it.
D. Sultan Singh had a successful career outside of the egg business, but Ran Singh did not.

4. The authors draw a clear connection between Hindu vegetarianism and the concept of “hot” and “cold” foods. Describe how this comparison explains why the Singh brothers’ business failed. Use at least **two** details from the text to support your answer.

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Self Check: Go back and see what you can check off on the Self Check on page 1.