Compare and Contrast George Washington/John Adams

Grade Level: 4th grade and up

Objectives:

- Students will demonstrate understandings of compare and contrast.
- Students will organize information using a chart.
- Students will identify the contributions of George Washington and John Adams.

Materials

- Getting to Know the U.S. Presidents: George Washington DVD
- Getting to Know the U.S. Presidents: John Adams DVD
- Compare and Contrast chart (1 per student)

Introduction

Explain that to *compare* two things, you look at how they are similar. When you *contrast* two things, you look at how they are different.

Activity

Tell students that they will watch two short videos about the first and second Presidents of the United States. The videos will provide the information necessary to fill in the Compare and Contrast chart.

Conclusion

Discuss the chart as a class. Point out that although the details may be different, the chart's categories often emphasize similarities (both were famous before the war, both helped win the Revolutionary War, both had troubles during their presidencies, etc.).

Extension

(option 1) Have students write a paragraph either comparing or contrasting the presidents. Provide paragraph frames if necessary:

- George Washington and John Adams are similar because they both... / Another way that they are same is...
- George Washington and John Adams are different because... / Another way that they are different is...

(option 2) Ask students to think up new categories for the Compare and Contrast chart (year of birth, year elected president, etc.).

Compare and Contrast Chart: George Washington and John Adams

Category	George Washington	John Adams
father's job		
job before the Revolutionary War		
home colony		
wife's first name		
event that helped make him famous		
job during the Revolutionary War		
big problem while president		

Compare and Contrast Chart: George Washington and John Adams (Annos)

Category	George Washington	John Adams
father's job	(farmer)	(farmer)
job before the Revolutionary War	(soldier)	(lawyer)
home colony	(Virginia)	(Massachusetts)
wife's first name	(Mary)	(Abigail)
event that helped make him famous	(Ohio Valley or French and Indian War)	(Boston Massacre)
job during the Revolutionary War	(leader of the Army)	(talk to the French)
big problem while president	(Whiskey Rebellion)	(French attacked ships, Sedition Act)