Using a Comparison Frame

Learning the Skill

A comparison frame is a chart that compares and contrasts two or more subjects. When you compare subjects, you discover how they are similar. When you contrast subjects, you discover how they are different. The subjects must be common in some way. For example, you could compare and contrast the ethnic groups that exist within Russia. You could not compare and contrast Russia's ethnic groups with the country's transportation systems, however.

A comparison frame also helps you explore relationships and draw conclusions.

Follow these steps to compare and contrast subjects using a comparison frame:

• Decide what subjects will be compared and contrasted. Write these subjects as headings across the top of the comparison frame.
• Determine common categories, or areas, to use for comparing and contrasting. Write these categories along the left side of the comparison frame.
• List important facts about each of these categories in the boxes under each subject.
• Give the comparison frame a title.
• Study the comparison frame, and look for similarities and differences among the subjects.

Practicing the Skill

The comparison frame below lists basic facts about the physical geography of Russia and the United States.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fact</th>
<th>Russia</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total landmass</td>
<td>6,592,819 sq. miles (17,075,322 sq. km)</td>
<td>3,717,796 sq. miles (9,629,047 sq. km)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total water area</td>
<td>30,657 sq. miles (79,400 sq. km)</td>
<td>181,274 sq. miles (469,497 sq. km)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time zones spanned</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest mountain</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mount McKinley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20,320 ft. (6,194 m)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chart, Graph, and Map Skills Activity
continued

Directions: Use the comparison frame on the previous page to answer the questions that follow.

1. **Identifying** What are the subjects of the comparison frame?

2. **Listing** Write the categories included in the comparison frame.

3. **Comparing** How much larger is Russia's landmass compared to the United States?

**Applying the Skill**

Directions: Using information from your textbook, fill in the empty spaces in the comparison frame. Use the inserted information to answer the following questions.

1. **Contrasting** How do the time zones in the continental United States contrast with the time zones in Russia?

2. **Contrasting** How does the highest mountain in Russia contrast with the highest mountain in the United States?