

## Social Studies Whole-Class Instructional Strategy:

# Comparison and Corroboration

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## The Basics

**What?** A protocol to help students consider historical events and developments similar to or different from others from the same period or another period by corroborating information between documents.

**When?** When students do an in-depth examination or exploration of primary or secondary sources.

**Why?** To help students understand how events affect different groups in different ways.

## How to Implement

1. Choose a set of documents for students to analyze.
2. Introduce students to the comparison graphic organizer sourcing protocol. Explain what information should be included in Parts 1 and 2. See Resources for Additional Information below for a sample.
3. As a class, in small groups, or individually, have students complete the [graphic organizer](#) about the set of sources.

### *Part 1: Identifying and Describing*

1. Teachers have the students write the topic for comparison at the top of the chart. Then, students add the source they are comparing and their associated periods and locations.
2. The students will respond to the questions in the Part 1 chart for each source being compared. Use the resources provided.
3. After responding to the questions for each source, have students identify and describe the similarities and differences between the sources.

### *Part 2: Analyzing*

1. Students will write two essays about this topic's similarities and/or differences.
2. Guide students in forming two thesis statements that they might use. Write one thesis statement about similarities and one about differences.

3. If required, the students will use thesis statements to craft a response to the comparison prompt for this activity.

## Resources and Additional Information

- [Graphic Organizer](#)
- [Video](#) of this strategy
- Examples of activities: [Grades 9-12](#)
- Example topics in [Bayou Bridges: A Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum](#) in which the Comparison and Corroboration strategy would be helpful:
  - **Grades 6-8:** Plans for Reconstruction (BB G7 U6, LSSSS 7.14), Early Settlement (BB G6 U1, LSSSS 6.9, 6.9.a, 6.9.d, 6.9.e)