

Same

- have air, water, rock, soil, Light energy
- Both have Producers, consumers, scavengers,
-

Differents

Model Terrarium

Contained
few Organisms
No trees
Small space
less variety

Outdoor Ecosystem

Not contained
Many Organisms
trees
big space
more variety

The model Terrarium and the Outdoor Terrarium are the same because they both have air, water, rock, soil, Light energy. Also they both have producers, consumers, and scavengers.

The two ecosystem are different because the model Ecosystem has less variety and the outdoor has more variety. Also the Model is contained but outdoor they are not contained. And indoor has few organisms and outdoor has Many Many Organisms. In addition the Model has no trees but Outdoor has lots and lots of trees.

comparing Series & Parallel circuits

Can be complete circuit
bulbs are of same brightness
D-cell, copper wires, light bulb

Differences

Series

one Path way

They go off
if you were to
unscrew a bulb
the other
would go out

add another
bulb it will
get dimmer

parallel

Multiple Pathways

They stay on if you
were to unscrew a
bulb

stays the same if you
add another bulb

5/28/10

How are series circuits and parallel circuits the same?

Series circuits are the same because they both are complete circuits another reason is they both are made of the same items light bulbs, copper wires, D-cells ect. another reason they are the same is they both start at the D-cell and end at the D-cell My final reason is they both travel into the light bulb the same way.

How are series circuits and parallel circuits different?

Well parallel circuits have many pathways unlike series circuits another reason parallel and series circuits are different is if you were to add another bulb to the parallel circuit the light in the bulb would stay the same brightness on the other hand series circuits would get dimmer this occurs because series circuits don't give as much of equal energy as parallel circuits which makes the bulbs dimmer My final reason they are different is you need to have at least 2 pathways in order to make a parallel circuit and series you only need 1

12-8-09

How does the information we have from our tests compare with the information found on food labels?

There are some similarity from label and the class results. The label says that rice has 2g of protein and the results says the rice has protein too. Another one is that the label says that rice has 0g fat and the results says that rice doesn't have fat.

There also so differs. One differs is that the results show that there is a trace of glucose but the label doesn't say anything about glucose.

Fourth Grade, Sample A—*Ecosystems* Unit: Alexis

- As an added investigation in the *Ecosystems* unit, students go outside to observe a real ecosystem and then discuss the similarities and differences between that real ecosystem and the model ecosystem they have created and observed in their classroom. After a discussion about what they observed outdoors, students then observe their models, filling in a box and T-chart as they talk with their partners about the similarities and differences they notice. After a class discussion and later a writing minilesson, the teacher has students use the Compare and Contrast writing frame and their own box and T-chart to write a comparison.
- Alexis has made a clear, detailed, organized, and accurate box and T-chart and written comparison. The skill she can learn next is how to check off things in her organizer as she includes them in her writing, which will be especially helpful as she learns how to do even more complex writing in the intermediate grades.

Fourth Grade, Sample B—*Circuits and Pathways* Unit: Rachel

- After students have done a number of investigations with series and then with parallel circuits, they compare and contrast the two kinds of circuits.
- Rachel is an articulate and verbal student who does not necessarily need to follow a writing frame, especially if she has made an accurate and detailed box and T-chart. In this case, her organizer is accurate and quite detailed, although her writing shows that she knows even more about the two circuits than she has included in her organizer. The only inaccuracy is her last sentence in the first paragraph. “They,” meaning the circuits, cannot “travel into the light bulb the same way.” In both circuits, *electric current* travels through the bulb in the same way.
- Some next steps for Rachel would be to learn how to combine sentences to convey more complex thinking. For example, she could combine the first and second sentences, and then the third and fourth sentences (“Series and parallel circuits are the same because they both are complete circuits and are made of the same items—bulbs, copper wires, D-cells, etc. In addition, they both . . .”).
- Articulate students like Rachel naturally write complex sentences with sophisticated thinking. They often need help in organizing their paragraphs. For example, if Rachel had followed her T-chart, she would have written about pathways in each circuit in the first sentence rather than writing a partial answer in the first sentence, then including more specific information in the last sentence.
- Another issue with articulate, bright students is that they make inferences as statements of fact, as Rachel does when she writes “this accurse [occurs] because seroise [series] cirrcuits don’t give as much of of equeal energy as pairillel cirrcuits which makes the bulbs dimmer.” When students need to make an inferential statement like she does, teach them how to introduce it with phrasing that indicates it is their thinking, not a fact, as in “I think this happens because” or “So I think this means that . . .”

Fourth Grade, Sample C—*Food Chemistry Unit: Savannah*

- In this unit, students test liquids and foods to determine what nutrients are in them. Toward the end of the unit, they compare their test results of rice with the label on a package of rice.
- Savannah has written a clear, accurate, and organized comparison of her tests and the food label. Her teacher modeled how to use the box and T-chart during a discussion and modeled the Compare and Contrast writing frame during a writing session. She removed the box and T-chart and shared writing before the students made their own entries. Note that Savannah uses her own language within the frame and still is clearly communicating her thinking in an organized way. She receives special education services in literacy yet clearly can make strong entries when writing about her science investigations and scientific thinking.