

# Finding similarities and differences – 2

You will need to think about how things are similar or different between texts or parts of a text and make comparisons.

Read the eyewitness recounts.

## Bigfoot?

### Account 1 - 11 December 2003

'I was on a camping holiday in the Australian bush last year when I saw the creature called Bigfoot. It was early morning, about 6 am, and the sun was just rising. I had bent down to light a campfire to boil some water for a cup of tea when I heard some rustling in the bushes behind me. I stood up and whirled around, afraid it might be a dingo. But instead, I was awestruck to see a giant ape-like creature. It stood on two legs and was much taller than an adult human. I would guess it was about three metres tall. It was covered in reddish, long shaggy fur and had a large head with facial features like those of a gorilla. It had a very short neck. The creature appeared to be collecting sticks which it tucked under its arm as it walked. It moved slowly and steadily on its long, powerful legs.



I must have stood frozen to the spot for about 20 minutes, watching the creature. I was downwind of it and I smelt a strong odour—similar to a pungent curry. Finally, I thought to get my digital camera. I slid sideways towards my tent but, unfortunately, I trod on a twig, which cracked loudly. Although the creature was some distance away, it heard. It turned its head and looked directly at me with terrified eyes. I called out, trying to reassure it, but it let out an ear-piercing shriek, dropped its sticks and began to run. I chased after it, but it must have been going at twice my speed and I soon lost it. I returned to the place where it had dropped the sticks and looked at its footprints. I could fit three of my feet into one of its prints. It also had four toes on each foot. I took some photographs and then packed up camp and headed to the ranger's station to explain what I had seen. However, no-one would believe me. But I will never forget what I saw that day.'

### Account 2 - 15 December 2003

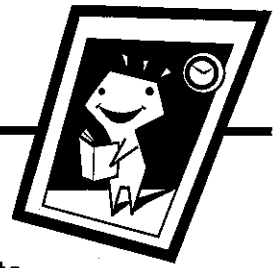
'A few days ago, I was hiking through the bush near my home in Sydney, Australia, when I saw some huge, four-toed footprints. I had just bent down to study them when I heard a yelping sound. I looked up—and found myself face to face with an ape-like creature. Its fur was a reddish colour and short and fuzzy. It had facial features like those of an orangutan and a long neck. I leapt to my feet and the creature did the same. It towered over me, and I am not a short man. It had a ferocious look on its face and I was sure it wanted to kill me. I wanted to run, but I felt frozen. As I stood there, I could smell a curious odour from the creature. It wasn't unpleasant—it resembled strong perfume.

The creature raised its hand. It was clutching a bundle of sticks, and I yelled in fear. Then, to my surprise, the creature placed its hand on my head and patted it. Its expression had changed to one of curiosity. It regarded me with its head tilted to one side. Then it backed away slowly, grunted and strode away on its two long legs. I wanted to call out to it but I didn't want to frighten it. I suddenly remembered that I had my camera in my pocket and I dug it out and aimed it at the creature. At that moment, it glanced over its shoulder and saw what I was doing. It shrieked and began to run, still clutching the sticks.

'Wait!' I called, but the creature was disappearing into the trees. I marvelled at its speed. I didn't even attempt to chase it.

I wish I had some pictures of that day to prove what I saw. It was unforgettable.

# Finding similarities and differences



## Try it out

Use the strategies you learnt and practised in *Leopards and cheetahs* to work out similarities and differences. Remember to use charts or Venn diagrams if you need to.

- Make sure you understand the question and underline keywords.
- Use a chart or Venn diagram if you need to.
- Check all possible answers before making a decision.

1. *The creatures in the accounts are the same because:*

- (a) They had long shaggy hair.
- (b) They both have large eyes.
- (c) They both have a long neck.
- (d) They both have four toes on each foot .

The best answer is .

**Think!**  
Try to find each answer in both parts of the text.

2. *Which two things do the accounts have in common?*

- (a) They take place in the Australian bush and the writer took photographs.
- (b) The writer took photographs and the creature patted him on the head.
- (c) They both take place in the Australian bush and occur in 2003.
- (d) They both occur in 2003 and the creature pats the writer on the head.

The best answer is .

3. *Write three things the creatures did that were similar.*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

4. *Compare the different actions the two writers took when they saw the creatures.*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

5. *List four differences between the way the creatures looked and smelt.*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_