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Using Graphic Organizers

In a **Venn diagram**, the middle section compares two things. It contains information on how they are similar. The outer part of each circle contrasts the two. It shows how they are different.

Fill in this Venn diagram to show similarities and differences.

Using
Graphic
Organizers

more land; less crowded developing economy—

half of the people live in poverty

people speak Spanish

free since 1863
moving toward
democracy in

recent years

occupy
the island of
Hispaniola

poor countries that have depended on farming

population of about nine million

warm, wet, tropical climates

large variety of plants and wildlife

former colonies
people mostly descended from
enslaved Africans

history of corrupt governments and

brutal dictators

less land; more crowded

90 percent of the people live in

forests cut down causes erosion, flooding, and loss of farmland

people speak Creole and French

free since 1804 first country to abolish slavery

hope to move toward democracy

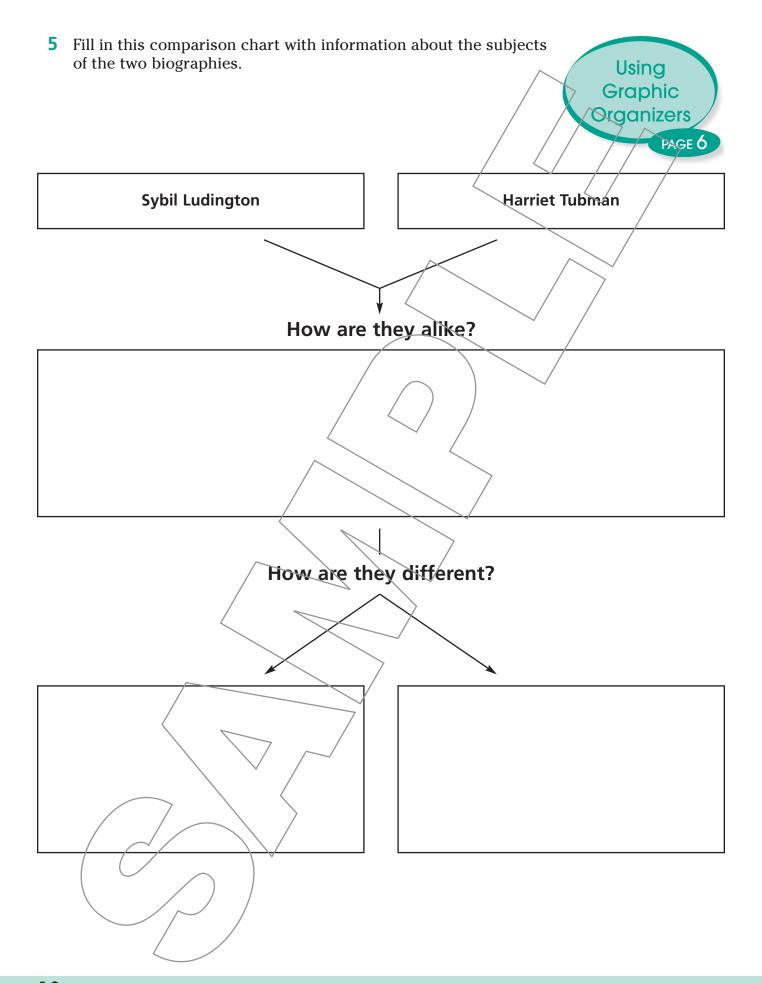
Dominican Republic

∕Both

Haiti

Did you notice that the Venn diagram and the comparison chart are two different ways of showing the same information?





Dark Is Rising, comes from a large and loving family. Harry is an only child, Will the seventh son of a seventh son—in folklore, a sign of magical powers. The Harry Potter books are all about Harry. They hardly ever leave his point of view. Will doesn't appear until the second book of his series, and large parts of the later books also center on other characters. Harry learns magic at a special school. Will more or less picks it up as he goes along. In Harry's world, there is danger that he and his friends may be killed—and some of them are. The "Old Ones," the magical people in Will's world, never die. Harry's teacher, Dumbledore, is a very human wizard who was born, mastered magic, and dies. Will's teacher, Merriman, is none other than Merlin, wizard-advisor to the legendary King Arthur. A lot of the

fantasy in *The Dark Is Rising* is based on British folklore. In *Harry Potter*, Rowling made up her own fantasy world—sometimes, it seems, as she went along. In some ways, Will's world is more like the real world than Harry's. Harry plays "quidditch." Will plays soccer. Harry observes wizard holidays. Will celebrates Christmas and goes to church.

As I read The Dark Is Rising sequence, especially *The Dark Is Rising* itself (book 2 of the series) and *The Grey King* (book 4), I decided that Susan Cooper was a better writer than J. K. Rowling. Her language is richer, and she creates a scarier mood and tone. Why, then, is Harry Potter so much better known than Will Stanton? Maybe because Rowling is a better storyteller.

Fill in the Venn diagram comparing and contrasting the two book series. Use it to help you answer questions 2–7.

