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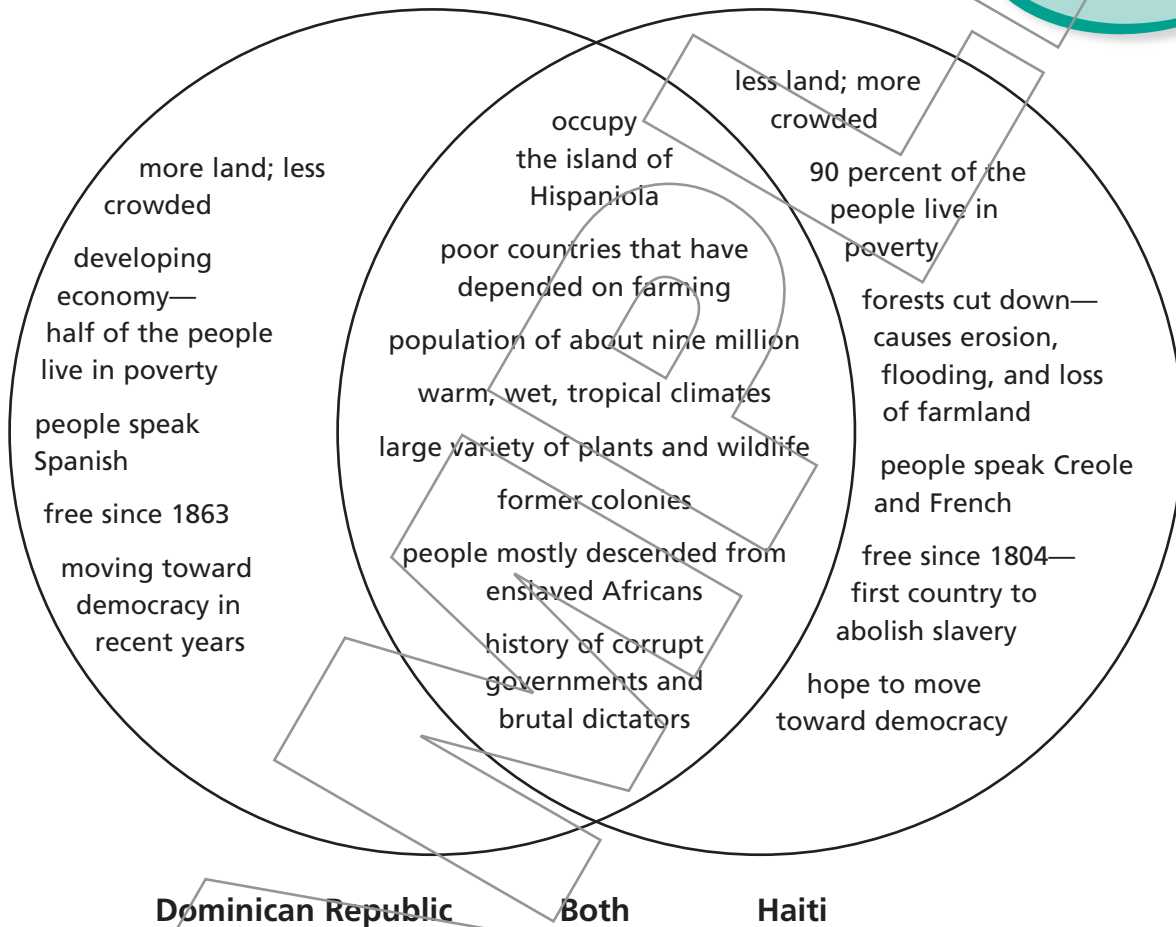
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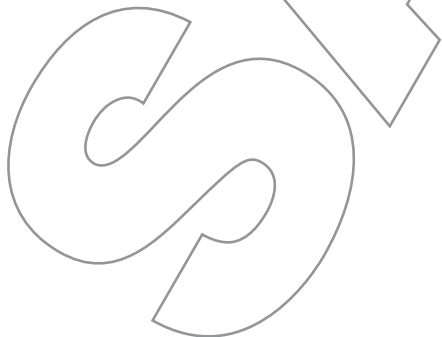
# Using Graphic Organizers

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.

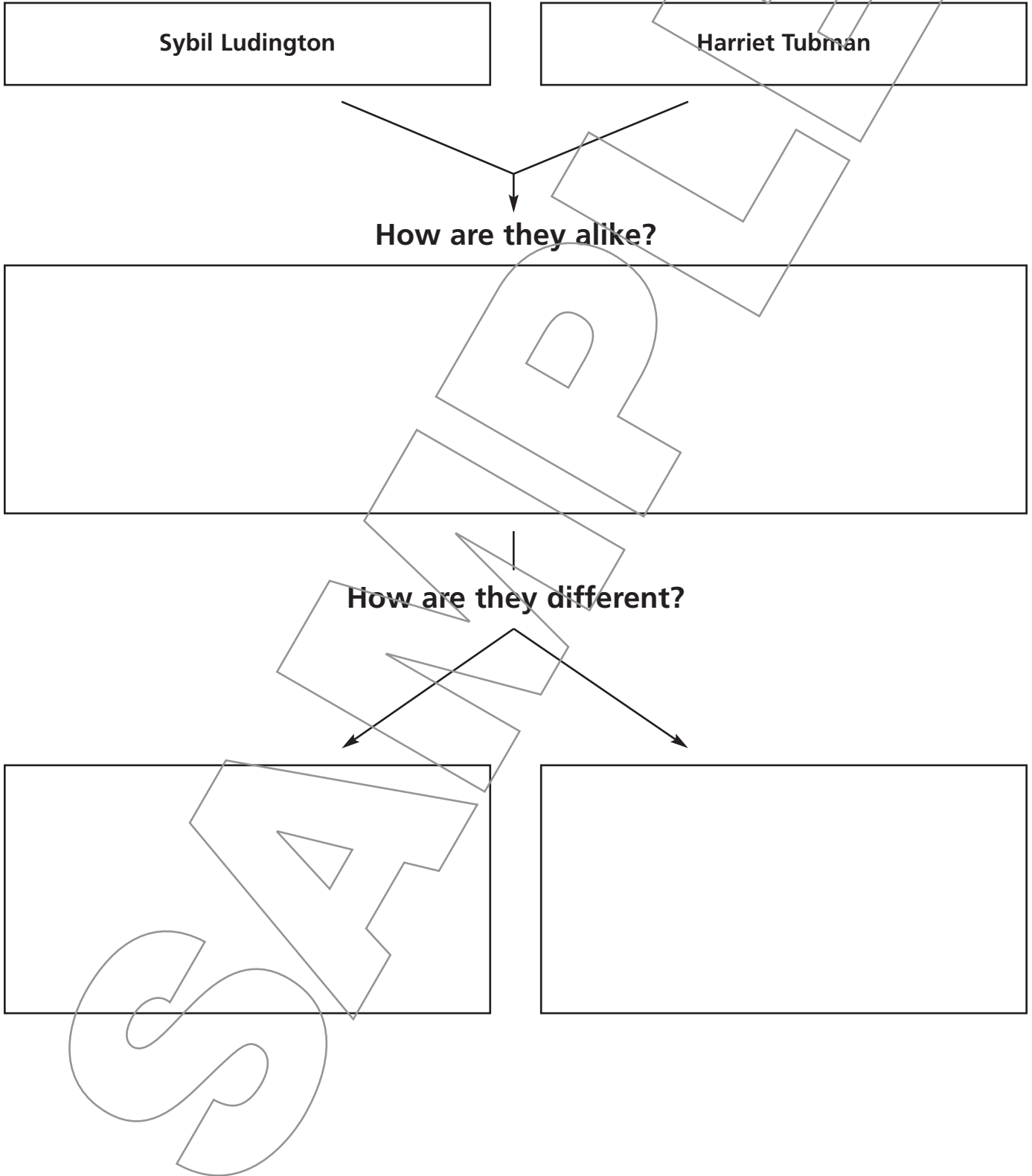
Fill in this Venn diagram to show similarities and differences.



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



5 Fill in this comparison chart with information about the subjects of the two biographies.



*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.

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

