

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Making Metaphors

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A metaphor is a poetic device. It is the use of a figurative word or phrase, in place of a literal one, to suggest a comparison between two unlike things. Unlike a simile, a metaphor does not include "like" or "as."

Examples:

The cherry blossom branches abound with puffs of pink cotton candy.
(*Cherry blossoms* are compared to *puffs of pink cotton candy*.)

In the ocean's depths live ancient and mysterious sea monsters.
(*Ocean animals* are compared to *ancient and mysterious sea monsters*.)

Directions: In each pair below, one of the sentences contains a metaphor. Place a star in front of the sentence with the metaphor, and then circle the metaphor in it.

1. Earth Day is on April 22.
Earth Day is a thank-you gift to our planet.

2. The diversity of animals fills libraries and museums with food for our minds.
There are millions of species of animals on Earth.

3. Elephants are living boulders.
Elephants are members of the pachyderm family.

4. The population of polar bears is declining.
If polar bears became extinct, we could never replace these fuzzy snowballs of the Arctic.

5. Humpback whales are the opera singers of the ocean.
Scientists have found that humpback whales actually sing long and complex melodies.

Now try your hand at writing metaphors! Write a sentence containing a metaphor about the following:

Earth: _____

Chimpanzees: _____

Your favorite baby animal: _____
