C Sound Sort

Spell words and sort the sounds of c.

3.LF.32.c "Encode words with two and three letter blends and previously taught digraphs, trigraphs, combinations, diphthongs, quadrigraph eigh, vowel y, hard and soft c and g, silent letter combinations, and contractions."

NAME _____ DATE _____

HARD C

A hard c sounds like /k/. It often comes before a, o, u, or a consonant.

cob

SOFT C

A soft c sounds like /s/. It usually comes before e, i, or y.

cereal

1 SORT

8 items

Write c in each blank and circle HARD or SOFT for its sound; then choose two words and explain how you knew.

1. _oat (a warm jacket) HARD SOFT
2. _lap (hit your hands together) HARD SOFT
3. _ell (a small room) HARD SOFT
4. _ity (a large town) HARD SOFT
5. ri_e (a grain you can eat) HARD SOFT
6. _rab (an animal with claws) HARD SOFT
7. _ube (a block with six square faces) HARD SOFT
8. fa_e (the front of your head) HARD SOFT

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new word with a hard c and one new word with a soft c.

HARD _____

SOFT _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence with a new hard c word and a new soft c word, and underline the c in each word.

ANSWER KEY

C Sound Sort

GRADE 3 · 3.LF.32.c

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	_oat (a warm jacket)	**HARD**	Coat has a hard c before o.
2	_lap (hit your hands together)	**HARD**	Clap has a hard c before l.
3	_ell (a small room)	**SOFT**	Cell has a soft c before e.
4	_ity (a large town)	**SOFT**	City has a soft c before i.
5	ri_e (a grain you can eat)	**SOFT**	Rice has a soft c before e.
6	_rab (an animal with claws)	**HARD**	Crab has a hard c before r.
7	_ube (a block with six square faces)	**HARD**	Cube has a hard c before u.
8	fa_e (the front of your head)	**SOFT**	Face has a soft c before e.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **HARD**: camp
- **SOFT**: cider

Challenge: The cat sat by a cedar tree.

For Part 2, accept explanations that name the c sound and use the next letter as evidence. For example, coat has a hard c because c comes before o, and city has a soft c because c comes before i.