Syllable Word Detectives

Spell each word, then sort its first syllable.

3.LF.32 "Apply knowledge of grade-appropriate phoneme-grapheme correspondences, multisyllabic word construction, syllable division rules, and spelling rules (or generalizations) to encode words accurately. a..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

OPEN SYLLABLE

An open syllable ends with a vowel. The vowel usually says its name.

ze/ro

CLOSED SYLLABLE

A closed syllable ends with a consonant. The vowel usually has a short sound.

mag/net

1 SORT

8 items

For each clue, write the two-syllable word with a slash between its syllables, circle OPEN or CLOSED for its first syllable, and in Part 2 explain how you knew for two words.

1. A big wild cat with dark stripes — OPEN CLOSED

2. A small animal with long ears that hops — OPEN CLOSED

3. A meal eaten outside, often on a blanket — OPEN CLOSED

4. A person who flies an airplane — OPEN CLOSED

5. Sounds made by singing or playing instruments — OPEN CLOSED

6. A container woven from strips, often with a handle — OPEN CLOSED

7. A machine that can do tasks by itself — OPEN CLOSED

8. A thin sheet you can write on — OPEN CLOSED

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 two-syllable word for each category, and put a slash between its syllables.

OPEN _____

CLOSED _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence with two new two-syllable words, one OPEN and one CLOSED. Underline the words, then show each syllable break and label it.

ANSWER KEY

Syllable Word Detectives

GRADE 3 · 3.LF.32

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A big wild cat with dark stripes	**OPEN**	ti/ger: The first syllable ends with the vowel i.
2	A small animal with long ears that hops	**CLOSED**	rab/bit: The first syllable ends with the consonant b.
3	A meal eaten outside, often on a blanket	**CLOSED**	pic/nic: The first syllable ends with the consonant c.
4	A person who flies an airplane	**OPEN**	pi/lot: The first syllable ends with the vowel i.
5	Sounds made by singing or playing instruments	**OPEN**	mu/sic: The first syllable ends with the vowel u.
6	A container woven from strips, often with a handle	**CLOSED**	bas/ket: The first syllable ends with the consonant s.
7	A machine that can do tasks by itself	**OPEN**	ro/bot: The first syllable ends with the vowel o.
8	A thin sheet you can write on	**OPEN**	pa/per: The first syllable ends with the vowel a.

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)

- **OPEN**: la/dy
- **CLOSED**: cac/tus

Challenge: The pony (po/ny, OPEN) found a button (but/ton, CLOSED).

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify where the first syllable ends. For example: In ti/ger, ti ends with a vowel, so it is open; in rab/bit, rab ends with a consonant, so it is closed.