Two Sounds of C

Sort words by the sound of c.

3.LF.8 "Apply knowledge of phoneme-grapheme correspondences, multisyllabic word construction, and syllable division principles to decode and encode (spell) words accurately in isolation and in context. a..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

HARD C

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

cabin

SOFT C

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

city

1 SORT

8 items

Read each word and circle HARD or SOFT, then pick two numbered words and explain how the letter after c helped you decide.

1.	camera	HARD SOFT
2.	cotton	HARD SOFT
3.	celery	HARD SOFT
4.	pencil	HARD SOFT
5.	curtain	HARD SOFT
6.	fancy	HARD SOFT
7.	candy	HARD SOFT
8.	copper	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. Do not use words from this page.

HARD _____

SOFT _____

CHALLENGE

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

ANSWER KEY

Two Sounds of C

GRADE 3 · 3.LF.8

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	camera	**HARD**	The c comes before a and makes the /k/ sound.
2	cotton	**HARD**	The c comes before o and makes the /k/ sound.
3	celery	**SOFT**	The c comes before e and makes the /s/ sound.
4	pencil	**SOFT**	The c comes before i and makes the /s/ sound.
5	curtain	**HARD**	The c comes before u and makes the /k/ sound.
6	fancy	**SOFT**	The c comes before y and makes the /s/ sound.
7	candy	**HARD**	The c comes before a and makes the /k/ sound.
8	copper	**HARD**	The c comes before o and makes the /k/ sound.

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**: cookie
- **SOFT**: center

Challenge: A cub found a cent.

For Part 2, students should name the letter after c and its sound. For example, in item 1, c comes before a and says /k/; in item 3, c comes before e and says /s/.