Syllable Sleuth

Sort words by their first syllable.

4.LF.2 "Determine and use the correct syllable type(s) to decode unfamiliar multisyllabic words, including open, closed, vowel-consonant-e, r-controlled, vowel team (including diphthongs), consonant-le..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

OPEN FIRST SYLLABLE

An open syllable ends in a vowel. Its vowel usually says its long sound.

pa/per

CLOSED FIRST SYLLABLE

A closed syllable ends in a consonant. Its vowel usually says its short sound.

rab/bit

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle OPEN or CLOSED for the first syllable of each word; for Part 2, choose two words and explain how you knew.

1.	mu/sic	OPEN CLOSED
2.	ro/bot	OPEN CLOSED
3.	bas/ket	OPEN CLOSED
4.	ti/ger	OPEN CLOSED
5.	sun/set	OPEN CLOSED
6.	pic/nic	OPEN CLOSED
7.	fro/zen	OPEN CLOSED
8.	nap/kin	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 with an OPEN first syllable and one with a CLOSED first syllable. Split each word with a slash.

OPEN _____

CLOSED _____

CHALLENGE

Write a three-syllable word, split it with slashes, and label its first syllable OPEN or CLOSED.

ANSWER KEY # Syllable Sleuth

GRADE 4 · 4.LF.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	mu/sic	**OPEN**	Mu ends in a vowel.
2	ro/bot	**OPEN**	Ro ends in a vowel.
3	bas/ket	**CLOSED**	Bas ends in a consonant.
4	ti/ger	**OPEN**	Ti ends in a vowel.
5	sun/set	**CLOSED**	Sun ends in a consonant.
6	pic/nic	**CLOSED**	Pic ends in a consonant.
7	fro/zen	**OPEN**	Fro ends in a vowel.
8	nap/kin	**CLOSED**	Nap ends in a consonant.

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**: ze/ro
- **CLOSED**: muf/fin

Challenge: um/brel/la, CLOSED

In Part 2, look for an explanation that names the last letter of the first syllable and tells whether it is a vowel or consonant. Accept other correctly divided words in Part 3.