Map Clue Sort

Decide what each map is made to show.

SS24.7.1 "Describe the world in spatial terms, using maps and other geographic representations, tools, and geospatial technologies. 1a Explain and demonstrate the use of map essentials, including direction, distance, legend, latitude, longitude..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PHYSICAL MAP

A physical map focuses on natural features, such as landforms and bodies of water.

Shaded heights across the Himalayas.

POLITICAL MAP

A political map focuses on places people govern and the borders between them.

The national boundary between France and Spain.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle PHYSICAL or POLITICAL for each map description, then in Part 2 choose two numbered items and explain how you knew where each belongs.

1. A map focused on the course of the Nile River. **PHYSICAL** **POLITICAL**
2. A map focused on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro. **PHYSICAL** **POLITICAL**
3. A map focused on the border between Canada and the United States. **PHYSICAL** **POLITICAL**
4. A map focused on the location of glaciers in Antarctica. **PHYSICAL** **POLITICAL**
5. A map focused on the location of Japan's capital city. **PHYSICAL** **POLITICAL**
6. A map focused on the boundaries of Brazil's states. **PHYSICAL** **POLITICAL**
7. A map focused on the shape of the Pacific Ocean floor. **PHYSICAL** **POLITICAL**
8. A map focused on the Appalachian Mountains. **PHYSICAL** **POLITICAL**

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 description of a physical map and one of a political map; use a different place or feature for each.

PHYSICAL _____

POLITICAL _____

CHALLENGE

You need to find the course of the Danube River and the borders of Hungary. Which map type would you use for each, and why?

ANSWER KEY

Map Clue Sort

GRADE 7 · SS24.7.1

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A map focused on the course of the Nile River.	**PHYSICAL**	A river is a natural feature.
2	A map focused on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro.	**PHYSICAL**	Mountain slopes are natural features.
3	A map focused on the border between Canada and the United States.	**POLITICAL**	A border between countries marks where political areas meet.
4	A map focused on the location of glaciers in Antarctica.	**PHYSICAL**	Glaciers are natural features.
5	A map focused on the location of Japan's capital city.	**POLITICAL**	A capital city is a center of government.
6	A map focused on the boundaries of Brazil's states.	**POLITICAL**	State boundaries divide areas of government.
7	A map focused on the shape of the Pacific Ocean floor.	**PHYSICAL**	The ocean floor is a natural feature.
8	A map focused on the Appalachian Mountains.	**PHYSICAL**	Mountains are natural features.

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)

- **PHYSICAL**: A map focused on the location of Lake Baikal.
- **POLITICAL**: A map focused on the borders of India's states.

Challenge: I would use a physical map for the Danube River because a river is a natural feature. I would use a political map for Hungary's borders because they mark an area of government.

The sort has five physical maps and three political maps. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the natural feature or the government-related place or border in each chosen item.