Buildings Tell Stories

Sort buildings by the places and purposes they serve.

SS24.HG.5 "Explain how the cultural landscape of a region reflects cultural traits, economic status, and preferences of its inhabitants. 5a Distinguish among various types of architecture based on their function..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

RURAL ARCHITECTURE

Rural buildings often serve land-based work or spread-out communities. Their design may leave room for growing, raising, or making things.

A greenhouse protects flower seedlings in a remote valley.

URBAN ARCHITECTURE

Urban buildings often serve many people in a densely built area. Their design may fit activities into a small amount of land.

A concert hall seats large audiences for performances in a packed neighborhood.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle RURAL or URBAN for each description, then choose two numbered items and explain which clues led to each choice.

1. A grain silo stores harvested wheat in a farming district. RURAL URBAN

2. An irrigation pump house sends water to fields of rice. RURAL URBAN

3. A subway station connects train lines beneath crowded streets. RURAL URBAN

4. A high-rise office tower holds workplaces on many floors. RURAL URBAN

5. A multilevel parking garage stacks cars near busy shops. RURAL URBAN

6. A livestock shelter houses sheep on open grazing land. RURAL URBAN

7. An apartment tower holds hundreds of homes on a small lot. RURAL URBAN

8. A produce packing shed prepares nearby vegetables for shipping. RURAL URBAN

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 rural building and one new urban building. Describe what each does and where it is located.

RURAL _____

URBAN _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one rural item and one urban item from Part 1. In two sentences, explain how each building's function reflects local economic activity or a preference about land use.

ANSWER KEY

Buildings Tell Stories

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A grain silo stores harvested wheat in a farming district.	**RURAL**	It stores a crop produced in the surrounding farming area.
2	An irrigation pump house sends water to fields of rice.	**RURAL**	It supports crop production across fields.
3	A subway station connects train lines beneath crowded streets.	**URBAN**	It serves mass transit in a dense area.
4	A high-rise office tower holds workplaces on many floors.	**URBAN**	It stacks workplaces vertically to use limited land.
5	A multilevel parking garage stacks cars near busy shops.	**URBAN**	It provides parking for a busy commercial area using several levels.
6	A livestock shelter houses sheep on open grazing land.	**RURAL**	It supports animal raising on grazing land.
7	An apartment tower holds hundreds of homes on a small lot.	**URBAN**	It provides many homes on limited land.
8	A produce packing shed prepares nearby vegetables for shipping.	**RURAL**	It supports the distribution of crops grown nearby.

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)

- **RURAL**: A barn stores hay beside pastureland.
- **URBAN**: A hospital tower treats patients in a densely built neighborhood.

Challenge: The grain silo stores wheat from nearby fields, showing that crop production shapes the rural landscape. The subway station moves many people through a crowded area, showing investment in shared transportation where land is limited.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify both a building's function and a clue about its setting. A building name alone is not always enough to determine whether a location is rural or urban.