Buildings With Purpose

Sort buildings by function, then compare rural and urban design.

SS24.HG.5a "Distinguish among various types of architecture based on their function, and explain how these may differ between rural and urban locations."

NAME _____ DATE _____

HOUSING

A housing building is designed mainly for people to live in. Look for spaces that support daily life rather than sales to customers.

A coastal stilt dwelling has living quarters raised above seasonal floodwater.

COMMERCE

A commerce building is designed mainly for selling goods or paid services. Look for features that help customers browse, receive a service, or make a purchase.

A bicycle repair workshop has service benches and a payment terminal.

1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered building, circle HOUSING or COMMERCE, then choose one rural item and one urban item and explain how a design feature in each supports its main function.

1.	1. Rural building with several bedrooms, a shared kitchen, and a mudroom for residents returning from farmwork.	HOUSING COMMERCE
2.	2. Rural roadside building with bulk feed bins, a loading bay, and a counter where farmers purchase supplies.	HOUSING COMMERCE
3.	3. Urban building with fitting rooms, display windows, and a street-level sales floor.	HOUSING COMMERCE
4.	4. Urban building with compact private units, shared laundry, and a secured entry for residents.	HOUSING COMMERCE
5.	5. Rural building with small private rooms and a communal kitchen for workers who live there during harvest.	HOUSING COMMERCE
6.	6. Rural orchard building with a tasting room and a register where visitors buy bottled juice.	HOUSING COMMERCE
7.	7. Urban building with styling stations and a reception desk where clients pay for haircuts.	HOUSING COMMERCE
8.	8. Urban building with order kiosks, a commercial kitchen, and a pickup window for paying customers.	HOUSING COMMERCE

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 HOUSING example and one new urban COMMERCE example; describe a design feature that supports each building's function.

HOUSING _____

COMMERCE _____

CHALLENGE

Choose either housing or commerce, then explain in two sentences how a rural building and an urban building with that same function might differ because of land availability or how people travel.

ANSWER KEY

Buildings With Purpose

HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.HG.5a

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. Rural building with several bedrooms, a shared kitchen, and a mudroom for residents returning from farmwork.	**HOUSING**	Bedrooms and a shared kitchen support residents' daily lives.
2	2. Rural roadside building with bulk feed bins, a loading bay, and a counter where farmers purchase supplies.	**COMMERCE**	The bins, bay, and counter support the sale of farm supplies.
3	3. Urban building with fitting rooms, display windows, and a street-level sales floor.	**COMMERCE**	These features support displaying and selling merchandise.
4	4. Urban building with compact private units, shared laundry, and a secured entry for residents.	**HOUSING**	Private units and shared laundry support residential use.
5	5. Rural building with small private rooms and a communal kitchen for workers who live there during harvest.	**HOUSING**	The rooms and kitchen provide living space for workers.
6	6. Rural orchard building with a tasting room and a register where visitors buy bottled juice.	**COMMERCE**	The tasting room and register support sales to visitors.
7	7. Urban building with styling stations and a reception desk where clients pay for haircuts.	**COMMERCE**	The stations and desk support a paid service.
8	8. Urban building with order kiosks, a commercial kitchen, and a pickup window for paying customers.	**COMMERCE**	The kiosks, kitchen, and window support food sales.

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)

- **HOUSING**: A rural mountain cabin has an insulated hearth that helps its occupants live there through winter.
- **COMMERCE**: An urban electronics showroom uses secure glass cases to display devices for sale.

Challenge: A rural grocery may spread across a large site with ample parking because customers travel by car from far apart. An urban grocery may use a narrow street-front space with a pedestrian entrance because land is scarce and many customers arrive on foot.

For Part 2, accept explanations that connect a specific design feature to the building's main function, not just its rural or urban location. For the challenge, look for a comparison of the same function in both locations and a reason for the design difference.