Plural Word Detectives

Sort, pick two choices to explain, then write your own.

3.L.GC.1.19 "Grammar: Form and use irregular plural nouns. (Master)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

CORRECT PLURAL

Some nouns make plurals in special ways. Use the special plural form when you mean more than one.

Several moose moved through snow.

INCORRECT PLURAL

Do not add -s or -es to an irregular plural that has a special form.

Several mooses moved through snow.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each sentence and circle RIGHT or WRONG for the plural noun.

1.	The children played tag.	RIGHT WRONG
2.	Two deers ran across the field.	RIGHT WRONG
3.	The mouses ate cheese.	RIGHT WRONG
4.	The women carried umbrellas.	RIGHT WRONG
5.	We saw three geese by the pond.	RIGHT WRONG
6.	The men fixed the fence.	RIGHT WRONG
7.	Three sheeps grazed.	RIGHT WRONG
8.	The oxen pulled the cart.	RIGHT WRONG

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 sentence with a RIGHT irregular plural and one new sentence with a WRONG irregular plural.

RIGHT _____

WRONG _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite this sentence with both plural nouns corrected: The childs watched two deers.

ANSWER KEY

Plural Word Detectives

GRADE 3 · 3.L.GC.1.19

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The children played tag.	**RIGHT**	Children is the correct plural of child.
2	Two deers ran across the field.	**WRONG**	The plural of deer is deer, not deers.
3	The mouses ate cheese.	**WRONG**	The plural of mouse is mice, not mouses.
4	The women carried umbrellas.	**RIGHT**	Women is the correct plural of woman.
5	We saw three geese by the pond.	**RIGHT**	Geese is the correct plural of goose.
6	The men fixed the fence.	**RIGHT**	Men is the correct plural of man.
7	Three sheeps grazed.	**WRONG**	The plural of sheep is sheep, not sheeps.
8	The oxen pulled the cart.	**RIGHT**	Oxen is the correct plural of ox.

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)

- **RIGHT**: Several fish swam near the rocks.
- **WRONG**: Several fishs swam near the rocks.

Challenge: The children watched two deer.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, students may explain that the correct word uses a special plural form or that the incorrect word adds -s when it should not. Accept different irregular plural nouns in Part 3 if each sentence clearly shows the intended category.