Sentence Detectives

Sort complete sentences and fragments.

6.L.GC.1 "Grammar, Usage, & Mechanics: Draw from knowledge of the conventions of Standard English grammar, usage, and mechanics when analyzing and constructing texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPLETE SENTENCE

A complete sentence has a subject and a verb. It gives a complete thought.

The playful otter splashed beside the rocks.

FRAGMENT

A fragment is missing a subject, a verb, or a complete thought. It cannot stand alone as a sentence.

While the moon rose.

1 SORT

8 items

For each item, circle COMPLETE or FRAGMENT, then choose two items and explain what makes each one fit its category.

1.	The silver canoe drifted across the lake.	COMPLETE FRAGMENT
2.	My cousin packed extra batteries.	COMPLETE FRAGMENT
3.	After the final bell rang.	COMPLETE FRAGMENT
4.	A swarm of bees surrounded the clover.	COMPLETE FRAGMENT
5.	Because the map was torn.	COMPLETE FRAGMENT
6.	Under the old bridge.	COMPLETE FRAGMENT
7.	The scientist recorded each result carefully.	COMPLETE FRAGMENT
8.	We will visit the museum on Saturday.	COMPLETE FRAGMENT

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 COMPLETE sentence and one new FRAGMENT.

COMPLETE _____

FRAGMENT _____

CHALLENGE

Write a fragment, then revise it into a complete sentence by adding enough words to finish the thought.

ANSWER KEY # Sentence Detectives

GRADE 6 · 6.L.GC.1

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The silver canoe drifted across the lake.	**COMPLETE**	It has a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.
2	My cousin packed extra batteries.	**COMPLETE**	It has a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.
3	After the final bell rang.	**FRAGMENT**	It begins with a dependent word and does not give a complete thought.
4	A swarm of bees surrounded the clover.	**COMPLETE**	It has a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.
5	Because the map was torn.	**FRAGMENT**	It begins with because and needs more information to complete the thought.
6	Under the old bridge.	**FRAGMENT**	It is a phrase without a verb or a complete thought.
7	The scientist recorded each result carefully.	**COMPLETE**	It has a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.
8	We will visit the museum on Saturday.	**COMPLETE**	It has a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.

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)

- **COMPLETE**: The drummer kept a steady beat.
- **FRAGMENT**: Near the crowded entrance.

Challenge: Fragment: Before the show began. Complete sentence: Before the show began, the audience found their seats.

Accept different student examples if they correctly match the categories. For Part 2, students should name a subject and verb for a complete sentence or explain what is missing from a fragment.