

Evidence or Viewpoint

Tell what can be checked from what someone believes.

L6-8RHSS8 "Distinguish among fact, opinion, and reasoned judgment in a text."

NAME _____

DATE _____

FACT

A fact can be checked in reliable sources and shown to be true or false.

Machu Picchu is in Peru.

OPINION

An opinion tells what someone thinks, feels, or believes. People may disagree about it.

Learning about maps is useful.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle FACT or OPINION for each statement, then choose two items and explain what helped you decide.

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. The U.S. Constitution was signed in 1787. | ☐ FACT | ☐ OPINION |
| 2. The Nile River flows through Egypt. | ☐ FACT | ☐ OPINION |
| 3. A democracy is the fairest form of government. | ☐ FACT | ☐ OPINION |
| 4. The first transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869. | ☐ FACT | ☐ OPINION |
| 5. Studying ancient Egypt is more exciting than studying ancient Rome. | ☐ FACT | ☐ OPINION |
| 6. The Civilian Conservation Corps was a smart program. | ☐ FACT | ☐ OPINION |
| 7. A museum visit is better than reading a history book. | ☐ FACT | ☐ OPINION |
| 8. Harriet Tubman helped enslaved people seek freedom through the Underground Railroad. | ☐ FACT | ☐ OPINION |

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 FACT statement and one new OPINION statement about history or government.

FACT _____

OPINION _____

CHALLENGE

Write a reasoned judgment about a historical event or law, then support your judgment with two facts.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The U.S. Constitution was signed in 1787.	FACT	The signing date can be verified in historical sources.
2	The Nile River flows through Egypt.	FACT	This geographic fact can be checked on maps and in reliable sources.
3	A democracy is the fairest form of government.	OPINION	Fairest is a judgment that people may disagree about.
4	The first transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869.	FACT	The completion year can be verified in historical records.
5	Studying ancient Egypt is more exciting than studying ancient Rome.	OPINION	Exciting is a personal preference.
6	The Civilian Conservation Corps was a smart program.	OPINION	Smart is an evaluation, not a fact that can be proven.
7	A museum visit is better than reading a history book.	OPINION	Better shows a preference that can differ from person to person.
8	Harriet Tubman helped enslaved people seek freedom through the Underground Railroad.	FACT	Her actions are documented in historical sources.

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)

- **FACT:** World War II ended in 1945.
- **OPINION:** The Bill of Rights is the most important part of the Constitution.

Challenge: The Homestead Act was an important law because Congress passed it in 1862, and it offered 160 acres of public land to eligible settlers who met its requirements.

For Part 2, students should identify checkable evidence for a fact or explain the belief, preference, or judgment in an opinion. In the challenge, the judgment should be supported by two accurate, relevant facts.