A Sound Sort

Listen to the a sound and look for silent e.

2.W.8.c "Encoding – Correctly spelling words with short and long vowel sounds, r-controlled vowels, and consonant-blend patterns. Generalizing learned spelling patterns (e.g., word families) when writing words..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SHORT A

The a makes the short sound you hear at the start of apple. These words do not end in a silent e.

hat

LONG A

The a says its name. A silent e at the end helps it make the long sound.

lake

1 SORT

8 items

Part 1: Circle SHORT or LONG for each word; Part 2: pick two words and explain how you knew which sound each a makes.

1. cap — SHORT LONG
2. gate — SHORT LONG
3. rake — SHORT LONG
4. pan — SHORT LONG
5. name — SHORT LONG
6. plane — SHORT LONG
7. game — SHORT LONG
8. mad — SHORT LONG

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

Part 3: Write one new SHORT word and one new LONG word.

SHORT _____

LONG _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one SHORT word from Part 1, add a silent e to make a real LONG word, and write both words.

ANSWER KEY # A Sound Sort

GRADE 2 · 2.W.8.c

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	cap	**SHORT**	The a has its short sound, and the word has no silent e.
2	gate	**LONG**	The silent e helps the a make its long sound.
3	rake	**LONG**	The silent e helps the a make its long sound.
4	pan	**SHORT**	The a has its short sound, and the word has no silent e.
5	name	**LONG**	The silent e helps the a make its long sound.
6	plane	**LONG**	The silent e helps the a make its long sound.
7	game	**LONG**	The silent e helps the a make its long sound.
8	mad	**SHORT**	The a has its short sound, and the word has no silent e.

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)

- **SHORT**: rag
- **LONG**: cave

Challenge: cap, cape

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the a sound or explain what a silent e does. For example, cap has a short a sound, while gate has a long a sound because of its silent e.