Define or Divide?

Two ways to organize information for readers

6.W.2.a "Introduce a topic; organize ideas, concepts, and information using strategies such as definition and classification."

NAME _____ DATE _____

DEFINES A TERM

A definition tells what a term means. It helps readers understand a word they may not know.

A compass is a tool that shows directions.

GROUPS INFORMATION

A grouping sentence sorts related ideas into types. It helps readers see how information fits together.

Musical instruments fall into families such as strings, woodwinds, and brass.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each sentence, circle DEFINE or GROUP, then choose two numbered items and explain how you knew where each belonged.

1.	Games can be sorted into board games, card games, and video games.	DEFINE GROUP
2.	Rocks can be grouped as igneous, sedimentary, or metamorphic.	DEFINE GROUP
3.	A drought is a long period with much less rain than usual.	DEFINE GROUP
4.	Poems can be grouped as haiku, limericks, or sonnets.	DEFINE GROUP
5.	A peninsula is land with water on three sides.	DEFINE GROUP
6.	A fossil is a preserved trace or remain of a living thing from long ago.	DEFINE GROUP
7.	Volcanoes can be grouped as active, dormant, or extinct.	DEFINE GROUP
8.	Dance styles can be grouped as ballet, tap, or hip-hop.	DEFINE GROUP

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 that defines a term and one new sentence that groups information into types; use topics not listed above.

DEFINE _____

GROUP _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences introducing one topic: first define a key term, then group details about that same topic into at least two types.

ANSWER KEY

Define or Divide?

GRADE 6 · 6.W.2.a

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Games can be sorted into board games, card games, and video games.	**GROUP**	It sorts games into types.
2	Rocks can be grouped as igneous, sedimentary, or metamorphic.	**GROUP**	It names three types of rocks.
3	A drought is a long period with much less rain than usual.	**DEFINE**	It tells what drought means.
4	Poems can be grouped as haiku, limericks, or sonnets.	**GROUP**	It sorts poems into types.
5	A peninsula is land with water on three sides.	**DEFINE**	It tells what peninsula means.
6	A fossil is a preserved trace or remain of a living thing from long ago.	**DEFINE**	It tells what fossil means.
7	Volcanoes can be grouped as active, dormant, or extinct.	**GROUP**	It sorts volcanoes by their activity.
8	Dance styles can be grouped as ballet, tap, or hip-hop.	**GROUP**	It names types of dance.

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)

- **DEFINE**: A meteor is a streak of light made when a space rock burns in Earth's atmosphere.
- **GROUP**: Sports can be grouped into team sports and individual sports.

Challenge: A habitat is the place where a plant or animal lives. Habitats can be grouped as forests, deserts, and wetlands.

Items 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 group information. Items 3, 5, and 6 define terms; accept other accurate examples that clearly perform the requested function.