Read Between Numbers

Sort claims from a neighborhood study.

S.1.6 "Distinguish fact from opinion in data source analysis."

NAME _____ DATE _____

FACT

A fact is a claim you can check against evidence, such as a record or a measurement. You may need to find the evidence before you know whether the claim is true.

The library opened at 9 a.m. on Saturday.

OPINION

An opinion gives a judgment or preference. It may mention evidence, but words such as "best" tell you what someone thinks.

The new mural is the best artwork in town.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle FACT or OPINION for each statement from a fictional neighborhood study, then choose two items and explain how you knew where each belongs.

1. 1. Survey records show that 36 of 50 households visited a park last month. FACT OPINION

2. 2. Visiting a park is the best way to spend a weekend. FACT OPINION

3. 3. A 20-minute walk to a park is far too long. FACT OPINION

4. 4. The nearest park is 1.2 miles from Pine Street. FACT OPINION

5. 5. At the meeting, 18 residents signed the park petition. FACT OPINION

6. 6. The survey included 50 households. FACT OPINION

7. 7. A third park would be a smarter use of city funds. FACT OPINION

8. 8. The neighborhood has two public parks. 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 and one new opinion about a neighborhood.

FACT _____

OPINION _____

CHALLENGE

Turn your opinion into a question a survey could investigate, and name one type of data you would collect.

Read Between Numbers

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. Survey records show that 36 of 50 households visited a park last month.	**FACT**	The count can be checked against the survey records.
2	2. Visiting a park is the best way to spend a weekend.	**OPINION**	"Best" expresses a preference.
3	3. A 20-minute walk to a park is far too long.	**OPINION**	"Far too long" is a judgment, even though the statement includes a number.
4	4. The nearest park is 1.2 miles from Pine Street.	**FACT**	The distance can be measured.
5	5. At the meeting, 18 residents signed the park petition.	**FACT**	The count can be checked against the petition.
6	6. The survey included 50 households.	**FACT**	The number of households can be checked against the survey records.
7	7. A third park would be a smarter use of city funds.	**OPINION**	"Smarter" expresses a judgment about how funds should be used.
8	8. The neighborhood has two public parks.	**FACT**	The number of public parks can be checked against city records.

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**: A city record lists three bus stops on Oak Street.
- **OPINION**: Three bus stops on Oak Street are not enough.

Challenge: Do Oak Street residents think three bus stops meet their needs? I would collect their answers to a survey question about bus access.

For Part 2, item 1 can be checked against survey records, while item 3 uses "far too long" to judge a walk. Accept other explanations that identify checkable evidence or judgment language.