Together or Just There?

Sort people by the connections they share.

S.6.1 "Define social groups as understood in sociology and distinguish groups from crowds and aggregates."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SOCIAL GROUP	NOT A SOCIAL GROUP
People in a social group interact over time and see themselves as connected members. A neighborhood chess club meets weekly to play and plan tournaments.	People may share a place or a trait without forming a social group. A crowd or aggregate lacks ongoing relationships among its members. Strangers stand in line at an ice cream truck.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle GROUP or NOT GROUP for each item; for Part 2, choose two items and explain how you knew where each belongs.

1.	1. Family members share meals and support one another over time.	GROUP / NOT GROUP
2.	2. Debate teammates practice together and identify as a team.	GROUP / NOT GROUP
3.	3. Commuters wait on a train platform without knowing one another.	GROUP / NOT GROUP
4.	4. Garden volunteers work together each month and consider themselves crew members.	GROUP / NOT GROUP
5.	5. People born in July have never met or contacted one another.	GROUP / NOT GROUP
6.	6. Spectators briefly gather for a street performance, then leave without keeping in touch.	GROUP / NOT GROUP
7.	7. Band members rehearse together and make decisions as a unit.	GROUP / NOT GROUP
8.	8. Coworkers on a project meet regularly and call themselves a team.	GROUP / NOT 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

For Part 3, write one new example of a social group and one new example of people who are not a social group.

GROUP _____

NOT GROUP _____

CHALLENGE

Two people wear the same school colors, but they have never met; explain why this alone does not make them a social group and name one change that could make them one.

ANSWER KEY

Together or Just There?

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. Family members share meals and support one another over time.	**GROUP**	They interact and have continuing relationships.
2	2. Debate teammates practice together and identify as a team.	**GROUP**	They interact regularly and share a team identity.
3	3. Commuters wait on a train platform without knowing one another.	**NOT GROUP**	They share a location but have no ongoing connection.
4	4. Garden volunteers work together each month and consider themselves crew members.	**GROUP**	They interact over time and share membership.
5	5. People born in July have never met or contacted one another.	**NOT GROUP**	A shared trait alone does not create a social group.
6	6. Spectators briefly gather for a street performance, then leave without keeping in touch.	**NOT GROUP**	This temporary crowd has no continuing relationships.
7	7. Band members rehearse together and make decisions as a unit.	**GROUP**	They interact and see themselves as members of a unit.
8	8. Coworkers on a project meet regularly and call themselves a team.	**GROUP**	They interact over time and share a group identity.

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)

- **GROUP**: A film crew works together for months and sees itself as a unit.
- **NOT GROUP**: People with green backpacks who have never interacted.

Challenge: Wearing the same colors does not mean they interact as members of a group. They could become a social group if they began meeting to organize school events and saw themselves as a team.

Accept Part 2 explanations that identify ongoing interaction and a sense of membership, or their absence. For Part 3, examples must show more than a shared place or trait to count as social groups.