Crack the C Code

Listen to c and look at the next letter.

2.2.PWS.1 "Students will decode one- and two-syllable words by using their knowledge of the following phonics skills: a. single consonants, including those with two different sounds (e.g., soft and hard c [cent, cat] and g [gem, goat]) b..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

HARD C

Hard c sounds like /k/. It usually comes before a, o, or u.

cup

SOFT C

Soft c sounds like /s/. It usually comes before e, i, or y.

city

1 SORT

8 items

Circle HARD or SOFT for each word, then choose two words and write how you knew where each belongs.

1. cap — HARD SOFT
2. cent — HARD SOFT
3. cell — HARD SOFT
4. coat — HARD SOFT
5. cub — HARD SOFT
6. rice — HARD SOFT
7. corn — HARD SOFT
8. cake — HARD SOFT

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 word with a hard c and one new word with a soft c.

HARD _____

SOFT _____

CHALLENGE

Write a two-syllable word with a soft c. Underline the letter right after c that helps you know its sound.

ANSWER KEY

Crack the C Code

GRADE 2 · 2.2.PWS.1

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	cap	**HARD**	The c sounds like /k/ before a.
2	cent	**SOFT**	The c sounds like /s/ before e.
3	cell	**SOFT**	The c sounds like /s/ before e.
4	coat	**HARD**	The c sounds like /k/ before o.
5	cub	**HARD**	The c sounds like /k/ before u.
6	rice	**SOFT**	The c sounds like /s/ before e.
7	corn	**HARD**	The c sounds like /k/ before o.
8	cake	**HARD**	The c sounds like /k/ before a.

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)

- **HARD**: cage
- **SOFT**: mice

Challenge: fancy

For Part 2, accept explanations that name the sound of c or point to the letter after it. Part 3 samples are in HARD, SOFT order.