Garden Claim Detectives

Decide what can be checked and what someone thinks.

5.3.R.6 "Students will distinguish fact from opinion in an informational text and explain how reasons and facts support specific points."

NAME _____ DATE _____

FACT

A fact is a statement you can check with evidence. You can check it even if you do not know whether it is true yet.

The Pacific Ocean is larger than the Atlantic Ocean.

OPINION

An opinion tells what someone believes, feels, or judges. Facts can support an opinion, but people may still disagree.

Blue is the prettiest color.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle FACT or OPINION for each garden statement; for Part 2, choose two numbered statements and explain how you know where each belongs.

1.	Plants need water to grow.	FACT OPINION
2.	A school garden is a helpful place to learn about plants.	FACT OPINION
3.	Pulling weeds is the least enjoyable garden job.	FACT OPINION
4.	Students can measure the height of garden plants.	FACT OPINION
5.	Some vegetables grow underground.	FACT OPINION
6.	Earthworms live in soil.	FACT OPINION
7.	Fresh carrots taste better than cooked carrots.	FACT OPINION
8.	Seeds can grow into plants.	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 nature. Label each one.

FACT _____

OPINION _____

CHALLENGE

Choose an opinion from Part 1 and a fact from Part 1 that supports it. Write their numbers and explain how the fact supports the opinion.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Claim Detectives

GRADE 5 · 5.3.R.6

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Plants need water to grow.	**FACT**	The need for water can be checked through observation.
2	A school garden is a helpful place to learn about plants.	**OPINION**	Calling the garden helpful is a judgment, though facts may support it.
3	Pulling weeds is the least enjoyable garden job.	**OPINION**	Enjoyment varies from person to person.
4	Students can measure the height of garden plants.	**FACT**	Plant height can be measured.
5	Some vegetables grow underground.	**FACT**	This can be checked by observing where vegetables grow.
6	Earthworms live in soil.	**FACT**	Earthworms can be observed in soil.
7	Fresh carrots taste better than cooked carrots.	**OPINION**	Taste preferences differ.
8	Seeds can grow into plants.	**FACT**	Seed growth can be observed.

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**: Octopuses have eight arms.
- **OPINION**: Snowy days are more fun than sunny days.

Challenge: Opinion 2, fact 4. Measuring garden plants gives students a way to learn about how plants grow, so it supports the idea that a school garden is helpful for learning.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify what evidence could be checked for a fact or what judgment makes a statement an opinion. For the challenge, the explanation must connect the chosen fact to the opinion, not just list their numbers.