Which Side?

Sort facts about a school garden.

6.3.R.6 "Students will categorize facts included in an argument as for or against an issue."

NAME _____ DATE _____

FOR	AGAINST
A fact is for an issue when it gives a benefit or a reason to support a plan. A skate park gives skaters ramps made for practicing tricks.	A fact is against an issue when it gives a drawback or a reason to oppose a plan. Wheels on skate park ramps can make noise near homes.

1 SORT

8 items

For each fact about whether our school should start a garden, circle FOR or AGAINST, then choose two numbered facts and explain how each supports or challenges the plan.

1. Garden flowers provide nectar for butterflies. FOR AGAINST
2. Garden vegetables can be used in cooking lessons. FOR AGAINST
3. A garden needs care during school breaks. FOR AGAINST
4. Students can measure plant growth during science lessons. FOR AGAINST
5. Insects can damage garden vegetables. FOR AGAINST
6. Garden tools need safe storage to prevent injuries. FOR AGAINST
7. Growing herbs lets students compare different plant scents. FOR AGAINST
8. Garden soil can absorb rainwater that would otherwise run across pavement. FOR AGAINST

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 for starting a school garden and one new fact against it.

FOR _____

AGAINST _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences about one garden fact that could be seen as both for and against the plan, and explain each view.

ANSWER KEY # Which Side?

GRADE 6 · 6.3.R.6

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Garden flowers provide nectar for butterflies.	**FOR**	The garden would provide food for butterflies.
2	Garden vegetables can be used in cooking lessons.	**FOR**	The garden could provide ingredients for lessons.
3	A garden needs care during school breaks.	**AGAINST**	Someone would need to care for it when school is closed.
4	Students can measure plant growth during science lessons.	**FOR**	The garden could support hands-on science learning.
5	Insects can damage garden vegetables.	**AGAINST**	Pests could harm the crop.
6	Garden tools need safe storage to prevent injuries.	**AGAINST**	The school would need to manage a safety risk.
7	Growing herbs lets students compare different plant scents.	**FOR**	The garden could offer a hands-on learning activity.
8	Garden soil can absorb rainwater that would otherwise run across pavement.	**FOR**	The garden could reduce rainwater runoff.

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)

- **FOR**: A school garden can teach students how to turn food scraps into compost.
- **AGAINST**: A garden uses space that students might otherwise use for games.

Challenge: Bees visiting garden flowers can pollinate plants, which supports starting the garden. The same bees may sting people, which is a reason against the garden.

For Part 2, accept explanations that connect each chosen fact to a benefit or drawback of starting a garden. Part 3 answers should be relevant facts, not unsupported opinions.