Where in Oklahoma?

Two ways to describe a place

3.C.2.2.B "Distinguish between relative location and absolute location (latitude and longitude) to describe the location of Oklahoma's major natural and human features on maps and globes."

NAME _____ DATE _____

RELATIVE LOCATION

A relative location tells where a place is compared with another place. It may use words such as near, north of, or beside.

Black Mesa lies northwest of Guymon.

ABSOLUTE LOCATION

An absolute location uses latitude and longitude numbers to give a place's position on Earth.

Turner Falls: 34.4° N, 97.1° W.

1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered description, circle RELATIVE or ABSOLUTE, then choose two item numbers and explain how you knew where each belongs.

1.	Oklahoma City is south of Guthrie.	RELATIVE ABSOLUTE
2.	The Arkansas River runs through Tulsa.	RELATIVE ABSOLUTE
3.	Oklahoma City: 35.5° N, 97.5° W.	RELATIVE ABSOLUTE
4.	Tulsa: 36.2° N, 96.0° W.	RELATIVE ABSOLUTE
5.	Mount Scott: 34.7° N, 98.5° W.	RELATIVE ABSOLUTE
6.	Lake Texoma is on the border between Oklahoma and Texas.	RELATIVE ABSOLUTE
7.	Grand Lake: 36.6° N, 94.9° W.	RELATIVE ABSOLUTE
8.	The Wichita Mountains are near Lawton.	RELATIVE ABSOLUTE

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 Oklahoma location description for each category.

RELATIVE _____

ABSOLUTE _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one Oklahoma place from the sort and describe its location both ways: compared with another place and with latitude and longitude.

ANSWER KEY

Where in Oklahoma?

GRADE 3 · 3.C.2.2.B

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Oklahoma City is south of Guthrie.	**RELATIVE**	It describes Oklahoma City compared with Guthrie.
2	The Arkansas River runs through Tulsa.	**RELATIVE**	It describes the river's location compared with Tulsa.
3	Oklahoma City: 35.5° N, 97.5° W.	**ABSOLUTE**	It gives latitude and longitude.
4	Tulsa: 36.2° N, 96.0° W.	**ABSOLUTE**	It gives latitude and longitude.
5	Mount Scott: 34.7° N, 98.5° W.	**ABSOLUTE**	It gives latitude and longitude.
6	Lake Texoma is on the border between Oklahoma and Texas.	**RELATIVE**	It describes the lake's location compared with two states.
7	Grand Lake: 36.6° N, 94.9° W.	**ABSOLUTE**	It gives latitude and longitude.
8	The Wichita Mountains are near Lawton.	**RELATIVE**	It describes the mountains compared with Lawton.

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)

- **RELATIVE**: The Red River is south of Ardmore.
- **ABSOLUTE**: Norman: 35.2° N, 97.4° W.

Challenge: Tulsa is northeast of Oklahoma City. Tulsa is at about 36.2° N, 96.0° W.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a comparison with another place or a pair of latitude and longitude numbers. Coordinates on this worksheet are rounded.