# Where Is It?

Sort two ways to describe a place.

**3.C.2.2** "Examine Oklahoma's political and physical features using physical and political maps. Explain the relative location of the student's school and the state of Oklahoma to surrounding states and major physical regions of the United States of..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

### RELATIVE LOCATION

Relative location tells where something is compared with another place. Look for words such as beside, north, or south.

The museum sits beside the zoo.

### ABSOLUTE LOCATION

Absolute location uses latitude and longitude to mark a spot on Earth. Look for a pair of numbers followed by N or S and E or W.

48° N, 122° W marks a spot in Washington.

## 1 SORT

8 items

Circle RELATIVE or ABSOLUTE for each item, then pick two items and write how you knew where each belongs.

**1.** Oklahoma is north of Texas. RELATIVE ABSOLUTE

**2.** Tulsa is northeast of Oklahoma City. RELATIVE ABSOLUTE

**3.** Black Mesa is near 37° N, 103° W. RELATIVE ABSOLUTE

**4.** The Red River is south of Oklahoma City. RELATIVE ABSOLUTE

**5.** Tulsa is near 36° N, 96° W. RELATIVE ABSOLUTE

**6.** Oklahoma City is near 35.5° N, 97.5° W. RELATIVE ABSOLUTE

**7.** Oklahoma is west of Arkansas. RELATIVE ABSOLUTE

**8.** Oklahoma is south of Kansas. 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 example of relative location and one new example of absolute location.

**RELATIVE** _____

**ABSOLUTE** _____

**CHALLENGE**

A map note says, "Oklahoma is east of New Mexico and includes 36° N, 99° W." Which part gives a relative location, and which part gives an absolute location?

**ANSWER KEY**

# Where Is It?

**GRADE 3 · 3.C.2.2**

## PART 1 · SORT

| # | ITEM | CATEGORY | WHY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Oklahoma is north of Texas. | **RELATIVE** | North of Texas compares Oklahoma with another place. |
| 2 | Tulsa is northeast of Oklahoma City. | **RELATIVE** | Northeast of Oklahoma City describes Tulsa using another place. |
| 3 | Black Mesa is near 37° N, 103° W. | **ABSOLUTE** | The latitude and longitude mark a spot near Black Mesa. |
| 4 | The Red River is south of Oklahoma City. | **RELATIVE** | South of Oklahoma City compares the river with another place. |
| 5 | Tulsa is near 36° N, 96° W. | **ABSOLUTE** | The latitude and longitude mark a spot near Tulsa. |
| 6 | Oklahoma City is near 35.5° N, 97.5° W. | **ABSOLUTE** | The latitude and longitude mark a spot near Oklahoma City. |
| 7 | Oklahoma is west of Arkansas. | **RELATIVE** | West of Arkansas compares Oklahoma with another state. |
| 8 | Oklahoma is south of Kansas. | **RELATIVE** | South of Kansas compares Oklahoma with another state. |

## 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**: Oklahoma is east of New Mexico.
- **ABSOLUTE**: Norman is near 35° N, 97° W.

**Challenge:** East of New Mexico gives a relative location. 36° N, 99° W gives an absolute location.

Accept explanations that identify a comparison with another place for RELATIVE or a latitude and longitude pair for ABSOLUTE. The coordinates given for cities and Black Mesa are nearby points, not exact locations.