History Claim Detectives

Sort statements and plan a fact-check

4.P.3.2.B "Distinguish fact from opinion in nonfiction text and investigate facts for accuracy"

NAME _____ DATE _____

FACT

A fact is a statement you can check using trustworthy sources. Check it before deciding whether it is accurate.

Canada has ten provinces.

OPINION

An opinion tells what someone thinks, likes, or judges. A source cannot prove a personal preference.

Parades are the most enjoyable community event.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle FACT or OPINION for each statement, then choose two numbered statements and explain how you knew each one's category.

1.	The U.S. Constitution was signed in 1787.	FACT OPINION
2.	Sacramento is the capital of California.	FACT OPINION
3.	A history museum is the best place for a field trip.	FACT OPINION
4.	The Statue of Liberty stands on Liberty Island.	FACT OPINION
5.	The Lincoln Memorial is the most beautiful monument in Washington, D.C.	FACT OPINION
6.	Learning about ancient Egypt is more interesting than learning about ancient Rome.	FACT OPINION
7.	George Washington was the first U.S. president.	FACT OPINION
8.	The United States has 50 states.	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 social studies fact and one new social studies opinion.

FACT _____

OPINION _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one fact from Part 1 and name a trustworthy source you could use to check it, then tell what you would look for in that source.

ANSWER KEY

History Claim Detectives

GRADE 4 · 4.P.3.2.B

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The U.S. Constitution was signed in 1787.	**FACT**	The signing year can be checked in historical records.
2	Sacramento is the capital of California.	**FACT**	The state capital can be checked in a government source.
3	A history museum is the best place for a field trip.	**OPINION**	Best expresses a personal judgment.
4	The Statue of Liberty stands on Liberty Island.	**FACT**	Its location can be checked on an official site or map.
5	The Lincoln Memorial is the most beautiful monument in Washington, D.C.	**OPINION**	Most beautiful expresses a personal judgment.
6	Learning about ancient Egypt is more interesting than learning about ancient Rome.	**OPINION**	More interesting expresses a personal preference.
7	George Washington was the first U.S. president.	**FACT**	The order of presidents can be checked in historical records.
8	The United States has 50 states.	**FACT**	The number of states can be checked in a government source.

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**: The Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776.
- **OPINION**: Local festivals are the most enjoyable way to learn about a town.

Challenge: For item 2, I would check a California state government website and look for a page that names the state capital.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a way to check a fact or point out a personal judgment in an opinion. A checkable statement is a fact even if it turns out to be inaccurate.