Where Does It Fit?

Sort regions by what defines them.

6.C.7.1 "Define the concept of region as an area sharing common characteristics and explain how regions can be categorized in many ways, such as political, physical, cultural, and economic."

NAME _____ DATE _____

POLITICAL

A political region has boundaries set by people through laws or government decisions. The province of Quebec is one example.

The province of Quebec

PHYSICAL

A physical region shares natural features, such as landforms or climate. Its edges are based on where those features are found.

A valley shaped by a winding river

1 SORT

8 items

Circle Political or Physical for each numbered region, then choose two items and explain why each fits its category.

1.	1. The country of Japan	POLITICAL PHYSICAL
2.	2. The city of Nairobi	POLITICAL PHYSICAL
3.	3. An area of sandy dunes and very little rain	POLITICAL PHYSICAL
4.	4. The country of Brazil	POLITICAL PHYSICAL
5.	5. A region of thick tropical forest and heavy rainfall	POLITICAL PHYSICAL
6.	6. An area of broad, flat grasslands	POLITICAL PHYSICAL
7.	7. A region of rocky coastlines and sea cliffs	POLITICAL PHYSICAL
8.	8. The country of Kenya	POLITICAL PHYSICAL

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 political region and one new physical region, and tell what defines each one.

POLITICAL _____

PHYSICAL _____

CHALLENGE

Name one place that belongs to both a political region and a physical region, and identify each region.

ANSWER KEY

Where Does It Fit?

GRADE 6 · 6.C.7.1

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. The country of Japan	**POLITICAL**	The country has official boundaries.
2	2. The city of Nairobi	**POLITICAL**	The city has official limits.
3	3. An area of sandy dunes and very little rain	**PHYSICAL**	Sand dunes and dry climate are natural traits.
4	4. The country of Brazil	**POLITICAL**	The country has official boundaries.
5	5. A region of thick tropical forest and heavy rainfall	**PHYSICAL**	Forest and rainfall are natural traits.
6	6. An area of broad, flat grasslands	**PHYSICAL**	The shared landform and plant cover are natural traits.
7	7. A region of rocky coastlines and sea cliffs	**PHYSICAL**	Coastlines and cliffs are natural landforms.
8	8. The country of Kenya	**POLITICAL**	The country has official boundaries.

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)

- **POLITICAL**: Peru is a political region because it has official national borders.
- **PHYSICAL**: The Great Lakes basin is a physical region because it is defined by lakes and the land that drains into them.

Challenge: A place in northern Chile can be in Chile, a political region, and in the Atacama Desert, a physical region.

For Part 2, accept explanations that point to official boundaries for political regions or shared natural traits for physical regions. For Part 3, accept other accurate examples with a clear reason.