What Connects Places?

Sort regions by the features they share.

6.C.7 "Analyze the common characteristics of regions which create a sense of identity and unity, influencing the interactions among people and nations of the Western Hemisphere..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PHYSICAL REGION

A physical region is an area grouped by natural features, such as landforms, climate, plants, or resources.

The Sonoran Desert is grouped by its dry climate and desert plants.

HUMAN-MADE REGION

A human-made region is an area grouped by what people share, such as culture, settlement, history, work, or government.

Hollywood is grouped by its movie and television businesses.

1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered region, circle PHYSICAL or HUMAN based on the feature that connects its places.

1.	Canadian Shield	PHYSICAL HUMAN
2.	Silicon Valley	PHYSICAL HUMAN
3.	Latin America	PHYSICAL HUMAN
4.	Altiplano	PHYSICAL HUMAN
5.	Amazonia	PHYSICAL HUMAN
6.	Great Plains	PHYSICAL HUMAN
7.	Northeast megalopolis	PHYSICAL HUMAN
8.	Tornado Alley	PHYSICAL HUMAN

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

Part 2: Choose two numbered regions and explain the clue that helped you sort each one. Part 3: Write one new example of each kind of region and name its shared feature.

PHYSICAL _____

HUMAN _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one region from Part 1 and explain how people could also group it by a feature from the other category.

ANSWER KEY

What Connects Places?

GRADE 6 · 6.C.7

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Canadian Shield	**PHYSICAL**	This region shares ancient bedrock and many lakes.
2	Silicon Valley	**HUMAN**	This region is grouped by its technology businesses.
3	Latin America	**HUMAN**	This region is grouped partly by shared histories and languages.
4	Altiplano	**PHYSICAL**	This region is a high plateau in the Andes.
5	Amazonia	**PHYSICAL**	This region shares a river basin and tropical rain forest.
6	Great Plains	**PHYSICAL**	This region shares broad plains and grasslands.
7	Northeast megalopolis	**HUMAN**	This region is grouped by its connected urban areas.
8	Tornado Alley	**PHYSICAL**	This region is grouped by a weather pattern: frequent tornadoes.

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)

- **PHYSICAL**: Rocky Mountains: connected mountain ranges.
- **HUMAN**: Corn Belt: farms where corn is an important crop.

Challenge: The Great Plains is a physical region because of its broad grasslands. People could also group its farming and ranching communities by their shared work, a human feature.

For Part 2, accept any two numbered regions with accurate clues, such as ancient bedrock for item 1 and technology businesses for item 2. For the challenge, the second feature must fit the other category.