Place Detective

Sort the features that shape a place.

7.P.2 "Use interdisciplinary tools to acquire, apply, and evaluate content understanding of the four strands of social studies. Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of government, the benefits of democratic systems..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTIC	HUMAN CHARACTERISTIC
A physical characteristic is a natural feature or process of a place. It is not built or organized by people. A geyser sprays hot water.	A human characteristic is something people build, do, or organize in a place. Residents hold an election.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle PHYSICAL or HUMAN for each statement, then choose two items, one from each category, and explain how you knew.

1. Steep cliffs line an island's shore. **PHYSICAL** **HUMAN**
2. Fishing boats dock at a built harbor. **PHYSICAL** **HUMAN**
3. Families grow rice on terraced hillsides. **PHYSICAL** **HUMAN**
4. Summer monsoon winds bring heavy rain. **PHYSICAL** **HUMAN**
5. A river floods a low plain each spring. **PHYSICAL** **HUMAN**
6. A new rail line links inland towns to a port. **PHYSICAL** **HUMAN**
7. A mountain pass cuts through a high range. **PHYSICAL** **HUMAN**
8. City leaders set rules for land use. **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

Write one new physical characteristic and one new human characteristic of a place.

PHYSICAL _____

HUMAN _____

CHALLENGE

Describe how one physical characteristic could shape a human characteristic in a place. Explain the connection.

ANSWER KEY

Place Detective

GRADE 7 · 7.P.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Steep cliffs line an island's shore.	**PHYSICAL**	Cliffs are natural landforms.
2	Fishing boats dock at a built harbor.	**HUMAN**	People build harbors and use boats.
3	Families grow rice on terraced hillsides.	**HUMAN**	Growing crops and making terraces are human activities.
4	Summer monsoon winds bring heavy rain.	**PHYSICAL**	Wind and rain are natural climate processes.
5	A river floods a low plain each spring.	**PHYSICAL**	The river and its seasonal flooding are natural.
6	A new rail line links inland towns to a port.	**HUMAN**	People build rail lines and ports.
7	A mountain pass cuts through a high range.	**PHYSICAL**	A mountain pass is a natural landform.
8	City leaders set rules for land use.	**HUMAN**	Land-use rules are made by people.

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**: A desert has sand dunes.
- **HUMAN**: People built a bridge across a valley.

Challenge: Frequent snowfall may lead people to build steep roofs so snow slides off.

For Part 2, a student might explain that item 1 is physical because cliffs form naturally, while item 2 is human because people build harbors. Accept other explanations that correctly identify what is natural or made or done by people.