One or Many?

Sort problems by their scope and cause.

S.5 "Analyze social problems that affect large numbers of people within a social system. Analyze patterns of social stratification and their effects on individuals and groups. Describe how social movements can influence and change society..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SOCIAL PROBLEM

A social problem affects many people and is linked to how a community or institution works. Look for a shared cause or a pattern across a group.

In many counties, a shortage of affordable child care keeps parents from working their preferred hours.

INDIVIDUAL PROBLEM

An individual problem affects one person. The description gives no evidence that it is part of a wider pattern or caused by a social system.

A chef burns a batch of cookies after leaving them in the oven too long.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle SOCIAL or INDIVIDUAL for each case; in Part 2, choose two items and explain what clue supports each choice.

1.	Across several districts, thousands of students miss class because school bus routes were cut.	SOCIAL INDIVIDUAL
2.	In a city, many residents cannot drink tap water because aging public pipes contain lead.	SOCIAL INDIVIDUAL
3.	One athlete leaves a uniform at home and cannot play in a game.	SOCIAL INDIVIDUAL
4.	After a regional industry closes, hundreds of workers cannot find jobs for over a year.	SOCIAL INDIVIDUAL
5.	One worker loses their keys and arrives late to a meeting.	SOCIAL INDIVIDUAL
6.	One cyclist gets a flat tire after riding over a nail.	SOCIAL INDIVIDUAL
7.	Statewide data show students from low-income neighborhoods are suspended at higher rates than others under school discipline policies.	SOCIAL INDIVIDUAL
8.	Across several towns, families have no nearby clinic after public health centers close.	SOCIAL INDIVIDUAL

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 a social problem and one new example of an individual problem.

SOCIAL _____

INDIVIDUAL _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one social problem from Part 1. Name one action a group could take to address its shared cause, and explain how the action could help.

One or Many?

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Across several districts, thousands of students miss class because school bus routes were cut.	**SOCIAL**	Route cuts affect thousands of students across districts.
2	In a city, many residents cannot drink tap water because aging public pipes contain lead.	**SOCIAL**	A shared infrastructure problem affects many residents.
3	One athlete leaves a uniform at home and cannot play in a game.	**INDIVIDUAL**	The case describes one person's mistake, with no wider pattern.
4	After a regional industry closes, hundreds of workers cannot find jobs for over a year.	**SOCIAL**	An industry closure is a shared cause of unemployment lasting over a year for hundreds of workers.
5	One worker loses their keys and arrives late to a meeting.	**INDIVIDUAL**	The case describes one person's lost keys, with no wider pattern.
6	One cyclist gets a flat tire after riding over a nail.	**INDIVIDUAL**	The case describes one person's mishap, with no wider pattern.
7	Statewide data show students from low-income neighborhoods are suspended at higher rates than others under school discipline policies.	**SOCIAL**	Statewide data show a group pattern linked to school policies.
8	Across several towns, families have no nearby clinic after public health centers close.	**SOCIAL**	Health center closures limit access to care for families across several towns.

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)

- **SOCIAL**: Across the state, many families cannot afford groceries after a steep rise in food prices.
- **INDIVIDUAL**: One person breaks a phone by dropping it on the sidewalk.

Challenge: For item 1, families could ask school boards to restore bus routes. Restored routes would help many students get to class.

For Part 2, accept any two explanations that cite the number of people affected and evidence of a shared cause or its absence. For the challenge, the proposed group action should address a cause described in the chosen item.