Syllable Split Detectives

Find the middle letters to read each word.

3.LF.8.b "Apply knowledge of multisyllabic word construction and syllable division principles to decode grade-appropriate multisyllabic words."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SPLIT THE PAIR

When two consonant letters sit between the vowel letters, split between the consonants. Then read each syllable.

rab/bit

SPLIT AFTER THE VOWEL

When one consonant letter sits between the vowel letters, try splitting after the first vowel. In these words, that vowel says its name.

ti/ger

1 SORT

8 items

Circle PAIR or AFTER for each word; then choose one word from each group, mark its syllable split, and explain why you split it there.

1.	basket	PAIR	AFTER
2.	muffin	PAIR	AFTER
3.	pilot	PAIR	AFTER
4.	napkin	PAIR	AFTER
5.	basic	PAIR	AFTER
6.	tulip	PAIR	AFTER
7.	velvet	PAIR	AFTER
8.	pencil	PAIR	AFTER

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one word from each group, mark its syllable split, and explain why you split it there.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new word for PAIR and one new word for AFTER. Show the syllable split in each word with a slash.

PAIR _____

AFTER _____

CHALLENGE

Write a three-syllable word with two consonant letters between a pair of vowel letters. Show every syllable split with a slash.

ANSWER KEY

Syllable Split Detectives

GRADE 3 · 3.LF.8.b

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	basket	**PAIR**	The consonants s and k sit between a and e; split bas/ket.
2	muffin	**PAIR**	The consonants f and f sit between u and i; split muf/fin.
3	pilot	**AFTER**	Only l sits between i and o; split pi/lot.
4	napkin	**PAIR**	The consonants p and k sit between a and i; split nap/kin.
5	basic	**AFTER**	Only s sits between a and i; split ba/sic.
6	tulip	**AFTER**	Only l sits between u and i; split tu/lip.
7	velvet	**PAIR**	The consonants l and v sit between the two e letters; split vel/vet.
8	pencil	**PAIR**	The consonants n and c sit between e and i; split pen/cil.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one word from each group, mark its syllable split, and explain why you split it there. Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **PAIR**: din/ner
- **AFTER**: pa/per

Challenge: but/ter/fly

For Part 2, a valid response could explain that bas/ket splits between s and k, while pi/lot splits after i because only l sits between the vowels. Accept other correctly divided words that fit each category.