Garden Claim Sort

Which claims can you check, and which tell what someone thinks?

3.RC.9 "Distinguish between fact and opinion; explain how an author uses reasons and facts to support specific points in a text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

FACT

A fact is true and can be checked by looking it up or observing it.

Whales breathe air.

OPINION

An opinion tells what someone thinks or likes. People can disagree about it.

Purple shoes look lovely.

1 SORT

8 items

For SORT, circle FACT or OPINION for each statement; for PROVE IT, choose two numbered statements and explain how you know each belongs in its category.

1.	Every school should have a garden.	FACT OPINION
2.	Carrots grow underground.	FACT OPINION
3.	Bees collect nectar from flowers.	FACT OPINION
4.	Growing vegetables is more fun than reading.	FACT OPINION
5.	Plants need water to grow.	FACT OPINION
6.	School gardens are prettier than playgrounds.	FACT OPINION
7.	Earthworms live in soil.	FACT OPINION
8.	A seed can grow into a plant.	FACT OPINION

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

For MAKE YOUR OWN, write one new fact and one new opinion about gardens or plants.

FACT _____

OPINION _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one opinion from SORT and one fact from SORT that helps support it. Explain how the fact supports the opinion.

ANSWER KEY # Garden Claim Sort

GRADE 3 · 3.RC.9

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Every school should have a garden.	**OPINION**	The word should expresses a belief about what schools ought to have.
2	Carrots grow underground.	**FACT**	This can be checked by observing how carrots grow.
3	Bees collect nectar from flowers.	**FACT**	This is an observable behavior.
4	Growing vegetables is more fun than reading.	**OPINION**	Which activity is more fun depends on the person.
5	Plants need water to grow.	**FACT**	This need can be checked through observation.
6	School gardens are prettier than playgrounds.	**OPINION**	Prettier is a personal judgment.
7	Earthworms live in soil.	**FACT**	Earthworms can be observed living in soil.
8	A seed can grow into a plant.	**FACT**	This can be checked by observing a seed as it grows.

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)

- **FACT**: Pumpkins have seeds inside them.
- **OPINION**: Pumpkins make the tastiest soup.

Challenge: Every school should have a garden because bees collect nectar from flowers. A garden with flowers can give bees a place to find food.

For PROVE IT, accept any two items with explanations that show why each statement can be checked or expresses a judgment. For the challenge, accept a fact and opinion from the sort when the student explains a reasonable connection between them.