Claim Detective

Sort claims, explain your choices, and write your own.

7.3.R.6 "Students will distinguish factual claims from opinions."

NAME _____ DATE _____

FACTUAL CLAIM

A factual claim can be checked with evidence. It is still a factual claim if someone checks it and finds that it is wrong.

An octopus has eight arms.

OPINION

An opinion tells what someone thinks, likes, or judges to be best. Evidence may support an opinion, but it cannot settle a personal preference.

Rainy days are more fun than sunny days.

1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered claim, circle FACT or OPINION.

1. The Pacific Ocean is larger than the Atlantic Ocean. FACT OPINION

2. Mangoes taste better than apples. FACT OPINION

3. School plays are more fun than concerts. FACT OPINION

4. A triangle has three sides. FACT OPINION

5. The Moon orbits Earth. FACT OPINION

6. A century lasts 100 years. FACT OPINION

7. Blue is the prettiest color. FACT OPINION

8. A quiet lunchroom is better than a noisy one. FACT OPINION

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two numbered claims, one FACT and one OPINION, and explain how you know what each is.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new factual claim and one new opinion.

FACT _____

OPINION _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences about the same topic, one factual claim and one opinion, and label each.

ANSWER KEY # Claim Detective

GRADE 7 · 7.3.R.6

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The Pacific Ocean is larger than the Atlantic Ocean.	**FACT**	Ocean sizes can be measured and compared.
2	Mangoes taste better than apples.	**OPINION**	Which fruit tastes better is a preference.
3	School plays are more fun than concerts.	**OPINION**	What is more fun depends on personal judgment.
4	A triangle has three sides.	**FACT**	The number of sides can be checked.
5	The Moon orbits Earth.	**FACT**	The Moon's motion can be observed.
6	A century lasts 100 years.	**FACT**	The length of a century can be checked.
7	Blue is the prettiest color.	**OPINION**	Prettiest expresses a personal judgment.
8	A quiet lunchroom is better than a noisy one.	**OPINION**	Better expresses a preference.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Pick two numbered claims, one FACT and one OPINION, and explain how you know what each is. Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **FACT**: Bees have six legs.
- **OPINION**: Strawberries are the best snack.

Challenge: FACT: Many libraries lend books. OPINION: Libraries are the best places to spend a Saturday.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify checkable evidence for a factual claim and personal judgment or preference for an opinion. The challenge sample uses two claims about libraries.