Name Detective

Sort general names and specific names.

3.11.D.iii "singular, plural, common, and proper nouns;"

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMMON NOUN

A common noun names any person, place, animal, or thing. It usually begins with a lowercase letter.

river

PROPER NOUN

A proper noun names a specific person, place, animal, or thing. It begins with a capital letter.

Lake Erie

1 SORT

8 items

For each noun, circle COMMON or PROPER, then choose two numbered nouns and explain how you knew which category each one belongs in.

1.	crayons	COMMON PROPER
2.	rabbit	COMMON PROPER
3.	Brazil	COMMON PROPER
4.	libraries	COMMON PROPER
5.	Mount Rainier	COMMON PROPER
6.	July	COMMON PROPER
7.	doctor	COMMON PROPER
8.	Chicago	COMMON PROPER

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 COMMON noun and one new PROPER noun. Do not copy a word from the sort.

COMMON _____

PROPER _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that includes a common noun and a proper noun. Capitalize the proper noun. Then check both nouns in your draft: keep or correct their capitalization, and tell why each name is general or specific.

ANSWER KEY # Name Detective

GRADE 3 · TEKS 3.11.D.iii

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	crayons	**COMMON**	Names things in general.
2	rabbit	**COMMON**	Names an animal in general.
3	Brazil	**PROPER**	Names a specific country.
4	libraries	**COMMON**	Names places in general.
5	Mount Rainier	**PROPER**	Names a specific mountain.
6	July	**PROPER**	Names a specific month.
7	doctor	**COMMON**	Names a person in general.
8	Chicago	**PROPER**	Names a specific city.

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)

- **COMMON**: garden
- **PROPER**: Noah

Challenge: Olivia visited the zoo. Check: Keep Olivia capitalized because it names a specific person. Keep zoo lowercase because it is a general name inside the sentence.

Items 1, 2, 4, and 7 are COMMON. Items 3, 5, 6, and 8 are PROPER. Accept proof explanations that identify a common noun as a general name or a proper noun as a specific name with a capital letter. Require a draft check with a reason for retaining or correcting each noun's capitalization. A correct draft may need no change.