Plural Word Detectives

Sort plural words by the rule they follow.

4.2.A.i "decoding words with specific orthographic patterns and rules, including regular and irregular plurals;"

NAME _____ DATE _____

REGULAR PLURALS

Regular plurals follow a spelling rule. You may add -s or -es, or change y to ies.

berries

IRREGULAR PLURALS

Irregular plurals change in a special way. They do not follow the usual plural spelling rules.

feet

1 SORT

8 items

First use spelling and sound clues to decode and read each plural word to a teacher or partner. Then for each word, circle REGULAR or IRREGULAR; then choose two words and explain which plural clue helped you sort each one.

1.	cats	REGULAR IRREGULAR
2.	puppies	REGULAR IRREGULAR
3.	mice	REGULAR IRREGULAR
4.	dishes	REGULAR IRREGULAR
5.	people	REGULAR IRREGULAR
6.	geese	REGULAR IRREGULAR
7.	stories	REGULAR IRREGULAR
8.	teeth	REGULAR IRREGULAR

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 REGULAR plural and one new IRREGULAR plural. Decode and read both new words to your teacher or partner.

REGULAR _____

IRREGULAR _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that uses one regular plural and one irregular plural. Label each plural with its category. Read your completed sentence to your teacher or partner.

ANSWER KEY # Plural Word Detectives

GRADE 4 · TEKS 4.2.A.i

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	cats	**REGULAR**	Adds -s to cat.
2	puppies	**REGULAR**	Changes y to ies.
3	mice	**IRREGULAR**	Mouse changes to mice.
4	dishes	**REGULAR**	Adds -es to dish.
5	people	**IRREGULAR**	Person changes to people.
6	geese	**IRREGULAR**	Goose changes to geese.
7	stories	**REGULAR**	Changes y to ies.
8	teeth	**IRREGULAR**	Tooth changes to teeth.

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)

- **REGULAR**: buses
- **IRREGULAR**: women

Challenge: The buses carried women to the museum. buses: REGULAR; women: IRREGULAR.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Accept student examples that are correctly spelled plural nouns and fit the stated category. In Part 2, students should name a spelling rule for a regular plural or explain the special word change for an irregular plural. Listen to the learner's actual word reading, including regular and irregular forms; record accurate reading or self-correction separately from category choices. Give support after a decoding attempt as needed. Sorting alone is not evidence of decoding. Check the new words and sentence reading as well as the unchanged eight classifications.