

Land or Change?

Tell what is there from what is changing.

WG.10.b "describing major physical and environmental features and how geography may change over time;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

PHYSICAL FEATURE

A physical feature is a natural part of Earth's surface that can be located and described. It may change slowly, but it is the landform or body of water itself.

A grassland plain is a broad area of mostly flat land.

GEOGRAPHIC CHANGE

A geographic change is an event or process that alters Earth's surface or water over time. It can reshape land, move material, or change water levels.

A fault shifts during an earthquake.

1 SORT 8 items

Circle FEATURE or CHANGE for each item, then choose two items and explain how you knew where each belonged.

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. A glacier retreats, exposing bare land. | ☐ FEATURE | ☐ CHANGE |
| 2. A mountain range | ☐ FEATURE | ☐ CHANGE |
| 3. Ocean waves wear away a cliff. | ☐ FEATURE | ☐ CHANGE |
| 4. Sea level rises and floods a low coast. | ☐ FEATURE | ☐ CHANGE |
| 5. A desert | ☐ FEATURE | ☐ CHANGE |
| 6. A river deposits sediment, making its mouth wider. | ☐ FEATURE | ☐ CHANGE |
| 7. A coral reef | ☐ FEATURE | ☐ CHANGE |
| 8. A drought lowers the water level of a lake. | ☐ FEATURE | ☐ CHANGE |

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 example of a physical feature and one new example of a geographic change.

FEATURE _____

CHANGE _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that names a physical feature and describes one process that could change it over time. Then apply the idea to this regional case: China's Yellow River delta is land built from river sediment at the coast. Between 1979 and 2000, deposited sediment extended the delta into the sea (NASA). Describe the delta as a physical feature, then explain how deposition changed it during that period. Use separate paper if needed.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A glacier retreats, exposing bare land.	CHANGE	Retreating ice changes the land that is visible.
2	A mountain range	FEATURE	A mountain range is a natural physical feature.
3	Ocean waves wear away a cliff.	CHANGE	Wave erosion reshapes the coastline over time.
4	Sea level rises and floods a low coast.	CHANGE	Rising water changes the shape and location of the coast.
5	A desert	FEATURE	A desert is a natural environmental region with very little rainfall.
6	A river deposits sediment, making its mouth wider.	CHANGE	Deposition alters the shape of land where the river meets a larger body of water.
7	A coral reef	FEATURE	A coral reef is a natural feature found in shallow ocean water.
8	A drought lowers the water level of a lake.	CHANGE	Less water changes the lake's size and shoreline.

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)

- **FEATURE:** Physical feature: A peninsula is land surrounded by water on three sides.
- **CHANGE:** Geographic change: A river can build new land along its banks by depositing sediment.

Challenge: A barrier island can change when storm waves move sand from one side to the other.

Regional response: The delta is sediment-built coastal land in China. The river deposited material at its mouth, adding land and extending the coast between 1979 and 2000.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a feature as a natural part of Earth's surface or identify a change as a process that alters land or water over time. Students may use different correct examples in Part 3 and the challenge. Require the regional explanation as well as the original response. Regional source: NASA Earth Observatory, Yellow River Delta, China (2009).