

Map Clue Detectives

Use location clues to tell a city from a geographic region.

WG.9.a "identifying and analyzing the location of major geographic regions and major cities on maps and globes;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

CITY LOCATION

A city location points to one named settlement. Coordinates or nearby land and water can help pinpoint it.

At 33.9°S, 151.2°E on Australia's southeast coast, Sydney.

REGION LOCATION

A region location describes a broad area, such as a plain, desert, or mountain system. It covers more than one point on a map or globe.

The Great Plains extend through central North America, east of the Rocky Mountains.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CITY or REGION for each clue, then, for Part 2, choose two items and explain the location details that support each choice.

1. Near 35°N, 139°E on Japan's Pacific coast, Tokyo.

CITY

REGION

2. The Sahara, stretching across northern Africa.

CITY

REGION

3. At 51.5°N, 0.1°W in southeastern England, London.

CITY

REGION

4. The Andes, running along western South America.

CITY

REGION

5. The Amazon Basin, in northern South America.

CITY

REGION

6. At 19.4°N, 99.1°W in central Mexico, Mexico City.

CITY

REGION

7. The Himalayas, north of India and south of the Tibetan Plateau.

CITY

REGION

8. At 30.0°N, 31.2°E along the Nile in northern Egypt, Cairo.

CITY

REGION

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 CITY location clue and one new REGION location clue. Include a place name and one location detail in each clue.

CITY _____

REGION _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one CITY clue from Part 1. Name the geographic region that contains it, then describe where the city is within that region. Then use a South Asia map from your teacher: locate and label the Himalayas on a copy or overlay. On separate paper, name the map and describe the Himalayas' position relative to two labeled countries or physical features. Ask your teacher to check your located places and evidence.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Near 35°N, 139°E on Japan's Pacific coast, Tokyo.	CITY	Named city; coordinate and coastal clues.
2	The Sahara, stretching across northern Africa.	REGION	Broad desert region across northern Africa.
3	At 51.5°N, 0.1°W in southeastern England, London.	CITY	Named city; coordinate and relative-location clues.
4	The Andes, running along western South America.	REGION	Mountain region along western South America.
5	The Amazon Basin, in northern South America.	REGION	Broad basin region, not one settlement.
6	At 19.4°N, 99.1°W in central Mexico, Mexico City.	CITY	Named city; coordinate and country clues.
7	The Himalayas, north of India and south of the Tibetan Plateau.	REGION	Broad mountain region, not one point.
8	At 30.0°N, 31.2°E along the Nile in northern Egypt, Cairo.	CITY	Named city; coordinate, river and country clues.

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)

- **CITY:** At 48.9°N, 2.3°E in northern France, Paris.
- **REGION:** The Gobi Desert stretches across southern Mongolia and northern China.

Challenge: Cairo is in northeastern Africa. It lies in northern Egypt along the Nile River. Map check: The Himalayas are a broad mountain region in South Asia. Verify the learner's two particular mapped reference relationships.

Items 1, 3, 6, and 8 are CITY. Items 2, 4, 5, and 7 are REGION. For Part 2, students should cite clues such as coordinates, a single settlement name, a broad landform, or an area that stretches across a larger space. Required: supply a readable map of South Asia, showing the Himalayas and labeled countries/physical features, with direction reference and a copy/overlay. Observe actual location and marking, and check each written relationship against that map. Original written classification alone is incomplete; support access and retry.