Syllable Sleuth

Sort words by their first syllable.

3.RF.3.d "Apply knowledge of syllable division rules, morphemes, and phonics patterns to decode and encode multisyllabic words accurately."

NAME _____ DATE _____

OPEN FIRST SYLLABLE

An open syllable ends with a vowel. Its vowel usually says its name.

ti/ger

CLOSED FIRST SYLLABLE

A closed syllable ends with a consonant. Its vowel usually makes a short sound.

muf/fin

1 SORT

8 items

Circle OPEN or CLOSED for each word, then choose one word from each group for Part 2 and explain how you knew.

1.	1. rabbit	OPEN CLOSED
2.	2. napkin	OPEN CLOSED
3.	3. robot	OPEN CLOSED
4.	4. picnic	OPEN CLOSED
5.	5. pilot	OPEN CLOSED
6.	6. hotel	OPEN CLOSED
7.	7. basket	OPEN CLOSED
8.	8. velvet	OPEN CLOSED

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 two-syllable word for each group, OPEN and CLOSED, and show where you would split each word.

OPEN _____

_____

CLOSED _____

_____

CHALLENGE

Write two new two-syllable words that have the same vowel letter in their first syllables, one OPEN and one CLOSED; show both splits and label each word.

ANSWER KEY # Syllable Sleuth

GRADE 3 · 3.RF.3.d

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. rabbit	**CLOSED**	Rab/bit: rab ends with a consonant.
2	2. napkin	**CLOSED**	Nap/kin: nap ends with a consonant.
3	3. robot	**OPEN**	Ro/bot: ro ends with a vowel.
4	4. picnic	**CLOSED**	Pic/nic: pic ends with a consonant.
5	5. pilot	**OPEN**	Pi/lot: pi ends with a vowel.
6	6. hotel	**OPEN**	Ho/tel: ho ends with a vowel.
7	7. basket	**CLOSED**	Bas/ket: bas ends with a consonant.
8	8. velvet	**CLOSED**	Vel/vet: vel ends with a consonant.

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)

- **OPEN**: pa/per
- **CLOSED**: sun/set

Challenge: OPEN: ba/con. CLOSED: ban/dit.

For Part 2, students should identify where each chosen word splits and whether its first syllable ends in a vowel or consonant. For example, rab/bit is closed because rab ends in b, while ro/bot is open because ro ends in o.