Fact Finder

Sort facts for a research question.

3.W.8.b "Sort evidence into provided categories."

NAME _____ DATE _____

ANSWERS THE QUESTION

A useful fact helps answer your research question. Keep it in your notes for that question.

Question: Why do ice cubes melt? Fact: Heat from the room warms the ice.

DOES NOT ANSWER THE QUESTION

An extra fact may be true, but it does not answer your research question. Leave it out of your notes for that question.

Question: Why do ice cubes melt? Fact: Some ice cube trays are blue.

1 SORT

8 items

For the question "How do earthworms help soil?", circle USEFUL or EXTRA for each fact, then pick two facts and explain how you knew where each belongs.

1.	Earthworm tunnels let air into soil.	USEFUL	EXTRA
2.	Earthworm waste adds nutrients to soil.	USEFUL	EXTRA
3.	Earthworms have no eyes.	USEFUL	EXTRA
4.	Earthworms mix soil as they move.	USEFUL	EXTRA
5.	Robins eat earthworms.	USEFUL	EXTRA
6.	Some earthworms are reddish brown.	USEFUL	EXTRA
7.	Earthworm tunnels let water soak into soil.	USEFUL	EXTRA
8.	Earthworms break down dead leaves in soil.	USEFUL	EXTRA

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 USEFUL fact and one new EXTRA fact for the earthworm question.

USEFUL _____

EXTRA _____

CHALLENGE

Write a new research question that makes one EXTRA fact from Part 1 useful; name the fact and explain why it now fits.

ANSWER KEY

Fact Finder

GRADE 3 · 3.W.8.b

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Earthworm tunnels let air into soil.	**USEFUL**	Tunnels add air to soil.
2	Earthworm waste adds nutrients to soil.	**USEFUL**	The waste helps make soil richer.
3	Earthworms have no eyes.	**EXTRA**	This does not explain how earthworms help soil.
4	Earthworms mix soil as they move.	**USEFUL**	Mixing is one way earthworms help soil.
5	Robins eat earthworms.	**EXTRA**	This tells what eats earthworms, not how they help soil.
6	Some earthworms are reddish brown.	**EXTRA**	Their color does not answer the question.
7	Earthworm tunnels let water soak into soil.	**USEFUL**	Tunnels help water enter soil.
8	Earthworms break down dead leaves in soil.	**USEFUL**	Breaking down leaves helps add nutrients to soil.

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)

- **USEFUL**: Earthworm tunnels make space for plant roots to grow.
- **EXTRA**: An earthworm's body has many segments.

Challenge: Question: What animals eat earthworms? Fact 5 is useful because it names an animal that eats earthworms.

For Part 2, accept explanations that connect each chosen fact to the question about helping soil. For example, item 4 tells a way earthworms help soil, while item 5 tells what eats earthworms.