Syllable Sound Sort

Look at the first syllable to help read the whole word.

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

OPEN FIRST SYLLABLE

A slash marks a syllable break. An open first syllable ends in a vowel, which usually says its name.

ti/ger

CLOSED FIRST SYLLABLE

A closed first syllable ends in a consonant. Its vowel usually has a short sound.

pic/nic

1 SORT

8 items

For each word, circle OPEN or CLOSED for its first syllable; in Part 2, choose one word from each group and explain how you knew.

1. 1. mu/sic OPEN CLOSED

2. 2. pa/per OPEN CLOSED

3. 3. rab/bit OPEN CLOSED

4. 4. ba/by OPEN CLOSED

5. 5. si/lent OPEN CLOSED

6. 6. ze/ro OPEN CLOSED

7. 7. mag/net OPEN CLOSED

8. 8. sun/set 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 with an OPEN first syllable and one with a CLOSED first syllable. Use a slash to show each syllable break.

OPEN _____

CLOSED _____

CHALLENGE

Write a three-syllable word with an OPEN first syllable. Use slashes to show the syllable breaks, and underline the vowel in the first syllable.

ANSWER KEY # Syllable Sound Sort

GRADE 4 · 4.RF.3.c

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. mu/sic	**OPEN**	The first syllable, mu, ends in a vowel with a long sound.
2	2. pa/per	**OPEN**	The first syllable, pa, ends in a vowel with a long sound.
3	3. rab/bit	**CLOSED**	The first syllable, rab, ends in a consonant and has a short vowel sound.
4	4. ba/by	**OPEN**	The first syllable, ba, ends in a vowel with a long sound.
5	5. si/lent	**OPEN**	The first syllable, si, ends in a vowel with a long sound.
6	6. ze/ro	**OPEN**	The first syllable, ze, ends in a vowel with a long sound.
7	7. mag/net	**CLOSED**	The first syllable, mag, ends in a consonant and has a short vowel sound.
8	8. sun/set	**CLOSED**	The first syllable, sun, ends in a consonant and has a short vowel sound.

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**: ro/bot
- **CLOSED**: bas/ket

Challenge: hi/ber/nate

Part 2 sample: mu/sic is OPEN because mu ends in a vowel, and rab/bit is CLOSED because rab ends in a consonant. Accept explanations that connect the first syllable's ending letter to its vowel sound.