Syllable Detectives

Sort words by their first syllable.

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

OPEN FIRST SYLLABLE

An open syllable ends in a vowel. That vowel usually makes its long sound.

pa/per

CLOSED FIRST SYLLABLE

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

bas/ket

1 SORT

8 items

Divide each word into syllables and circle OPEN or CLOSED for its first syllable, then in Part 2 choose two words and explain how you knew.

1.	robot	OPEN CLOSED
2.	tiger	OPEN CLOSED
3.	napkin	OPEN CLOSED
4.	pilot	OPEN CLOSED
5.	magnet	OPEN CLOSED
6.	rabbit	OPEN CLOSED
7.	music	OPEN CLOSED
8.	hotel	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, and mark the syllable break in each word.

OPEN _____

CLOSED _____

CHALLENGE

Write a three-syllable word, divide it with slashes, and explain whether its first syllable is open or closed.

ANSWER KEY # Syllable Detectives

GRADE 5 · 5.RF.3.d

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	robot	**OPEN**	ro/bot: ro ends in a vowel with a long o sound.
2	tiger	**OPEN**	ti/ger: ti ends in a vowel with a long i sound.
3	napkin	**CLOSED**	nap/kin: nap ends in a consonant and has a short a sound.
4	pilot	**OPEN**	pi/lot: pi ends in a vowel with a long i sound.
5	magnet	**CLOSED**	mag/net: mag ends in a consonant and has a short a sound.
6	rabbit	**CLOSED**	rab/bit: rab ends in a consonant and has a short a sound.
7	music	**OPEN**	mu/sic: mu ends in a vowel with a long u sound.
8	hotel	**OPEN**	ho/tel: ho ends in a vowel with a long o 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**: ze/ro
- **CLOSED**: ten/nis

Challenge: fan/tas/tic: CLOSED. The first syllable, fan, ends in a consonant.

For Part 2, accept any two correctly divided sort words with explanations based on whether the first syllable ends in a vowel or consonant. Part 3 examples may vary.