Spelling Sleuth

Some words have more than one right spelling.

6.L.2.b "Spell correctly, recognizing that some words have commonly accepted variations (e.g. glamour/glamor); consult references as needed."

NAME _____ DATE _____

ACCEPTED SPELLING

A word can have more than one accepted spelling. If you are unsure, check a dictionary.

Both color and colour are accepted spellings.

MISSPELLING

A misspelling is not an accepted way to spell the word you mean. Check a dictionary rather than guessing.

Coler is a misspelling of color.

1 SORT

8 items

Part 1: Circle ACCEPTED or MISSPELLED for each word; Part 2: choose one item from each category and explain how you knew.

1.	1. glamour	ACCEPTED MISSPELLED
2.	2. thier	ACCEPTED MISSPELLED
3.	3. definately	ACCEPTED MISSPELLED
4.	4. theater	ACCEPTED MISSPELLED
5.	5. cancelled	ACCEPTED MISSPELLED
6.	6. seperate	ACCEPTED MISSPELLED
7.	7. gray	ACCEPTED MISSPELLED
8.	8. travelling	ACCEPTED MISSPELLED

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

Part 3: Write one new accepted spelling and one new misspelling. For the misspelling, also write the correct spelling.

ACCEPTED _____

MISSPELLED _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one accepted spelling from Part 1, write another accepted spelling of that word, and name a reference you could use to check both.

ANSWER KEY # Spelling Sleuth

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. glamour	**ACCEPTED**	Accepted spelling; glamor is another accepted spelling.
2	2. thier	**MISSPELLED**	Misspelling of their.
3	3. definately	**MISSPELLED**	Misspelling of definitely.
4	4. theater	**ACCEPTED**	Accepted spelling; theatre is another accepted spelling.
5	5. cancelled	**ACCEPTED**	Accepted spelling; canceled is another accepted spelling.
6	6. seperate	**MISSPELLED**	Misspelling of separate.
7	7. gray	**ACCEPTED**	Accepted spelling; grey is another accepted spelling.
8	8. travelling	**ACCEPTED**	Accepted spelling; traveling is another accepted spelling.

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)

- **ACCEPTED**: favourite
- **MISSPELLED**: recieve → receive

Challenge: Theater and theatre are both accepted spellings. I could check a dictionary.

For Part 2, students might explain that glamour is accepted because glamor is also correct, while thier is a misspelling of their. For Part 3, accept other valid examples that are not sort items.