

Name Detective

Sort general names and specific names.

3.11.D.iii "singular, plural, common, and proper nouns;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

COMMON NOUN

A common noun names any person, place, animal, or thing. It usually begins with a lowercase letter.

river

PROPER NOUN

A proper noun names a specific person, place, animal, or thing. It begins with a capital letter.

Lake Erie

1 SORT

8 items

For each noun, circle COMMON or PROPER, then choose two numbered nouns and explain how you knew which category each one belongs in.

1. crayons

COMMON

PROPER

2. rabbit

COMMON

PROPER

3. Brazil

COMMON

PROPER

4. libraries

COMMON

PROPER

5. Mount Rainier

COMMON

PROPER

6. July

COMMON

PROPER

7. doctor

COMMON

PROPER

8. Chicago

COMMON

PROPER

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 COMMON noun and one new PROPER noun. Do not copy a word from the sort.

COMMON _____

PROPER _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that includes a common noun and a proper noun. Capitalize the proper noun.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	crayons	COMMON	Names things in general.
2	rabbit	COMMON	Names an animal in general.
3	Brazil	PROPER	Names a specific country.
4	libraries	COMMON	Names places in general.
5	Mount Rainier	PROPER	Names a specific mountain.
6	July	PROPER	Names a specific month.
7	doctor	COMMON	Names a person in general.
8	Chicago	PROPER	Names a specific city.

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)

- **COMMON:** garden
- **PROPER:** Noah

Challenge: Olivia visited the zoo.

Items 1, 2, 4, and 7 are COMMON. Items 3, 5, 6, and 8 are PROPER. Accept proof explanations that identify a common noun as a general name or a proper noun as a specific name with a capital letter.