

Fact Finder Sort

Sort checkable facts from personal opinions.

3.14.C “interpret oral, visual, and print material by sequencing, categorizing, identifying the main idea, distinguishing between fact and opinion, identifying cause and effect, comparing, and contrasting;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

FACT

A fact is a statement that can be checked and proven true.

Alaska is the largest U.S. state by area.

OPINION

An opinion tells what someone thinks or feels.

Different people can have different opinions.

Maps are the most useful tools for travelers.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle FACT or OPINION for each statement, then choose two statements and explain how you knew.

1. The Statue of Liberty is in New York Harbor.

FACT

OPINION

2. Abraham Lincoln was the 16th U.S. president.

FACT

OPINION

3. The Grand Canyon is the most amazing natural place in the United States.

FACT

OPINION

4. Mount Rushmore is in South Dakota.

FACT

OPINION

5. Every community should build a bigger library.

FACT

OPINION

6. U.S. citizens who meet eligibility rules can vote in federal elections at age 18 or older.

FACT

OPINION

7. The first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution are called the Bill of Rights.

FACT

OPINION

8. Learning about local history is more interesting than watching television.

FACT

OPINION

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 fact and one new opinion about a social studies topic.

FACT _____

OPINION _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one place in the United States. Write one fact and one opinion about that same place.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The Statue of Liberty is in New York Harbor.	FACT	This location can be checked in reliable sources.
2	Abraham Lincoln was the 16th U.S. president.	FACT	This is a checkable historical fact.
3	The Grand Canyon is the most amazing natural place in the United States.	OPINION	"Most amazing" is a personal judgment.
4	Mount Rushmore is in South Dakota.	FACT	This location can be checked.
5	Every community should build a bigger library.	OPINION	"Should" shows a belief about what is best.
6	U.S. citizens who meet eligibility rules can vote in federal elections at age 18 or older.	FACT	This is based on U.S. voting law.
7	The first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution are called the Bill of Rights.	FACT	This is a checkable historical fact.
8	Learning about local history is more interesting than watching television.	OPINION	What is more interesting depends on the person.

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)

- **FACT:** The Mississippi River flows through several U.S. states.
- **OPINION:** Visiting a museum is a fun way to learn about history.

Challenge: Fact: The Golden Gate Bridge is in San Francisco, California. Opinion: The Golden Gate Bridge is the most beautiful bridge in the United States.

Items 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7 are FACT. Items 3, 5, and 8 are OPINION. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a statement as checkable or as a personal belief or judgment.