Fact or Feeling?

Sort statements by what can be checked.

4.RI.1 "Key Ideas and Confirming Details Summarize the main idea of multi-paragraph texts and the specific paragraphs within them, explaining how key details support the main ideas. Summarize events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in historical..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

FACT

A fact is a statement that can be checked and shown to be true or false.

A year has twelve months.

OPINION

An opinion tells what someone thinks or feels. Different people may have different opinions.

Painting is a wonderful hobby.

1 SORT

8 items

For each statement, circle FACT or OPINION, then choose two items and explain what makes each one a fact or an opinion.

1. A triangle has three sides. FACT OPINION
2. Honeybees live in colonies. FACT OPINION
3. Recess is the best part of the school day. FACT OPINION
4. George Washington was the first president of the United States. FACT OPINION
5. Rainy days are boring. FACT OPINION
6. Soccer is more exciting than basketball. FACT OPINION
7. A thermometer measures temperature. FACT OPINION
8. Libraries are the most peaceful places. 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 statement and one new OPINION statement.

FACT _____

OPINION _____

CHALLENGE

Write an opinion about a school subject and give one reason that supports it.

ANSWER KEY

Fact or Feeling?

GRADE 4 · 4.RI.1

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A triangle has three sides.	**FACT**	This can be checked in geometry.
2	Honeybees live in colonies.	**FACT**	This is a checkable scientific fact.
3	Recess is the best part of the school day.	**OPINION**	Whether recess is best depends on personal preference.
4	George Washington was the first president of the United States.	**FACT**	This can be verified in historical records.
5	Rainy days are boring.	**OPINION**	People can feel differently about rainy days.
6	Soccer is more exciting than basketball.	**OPINION**	Excitement is a personal judgment.
7	A thermometer measures temperature.	**FACT**	This is a checkable fact about a tool.
8	Libraries are the most peaceful places.	**OPINION**	Peacefulness is a personal judgment.

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 moon orbits Earth.
- **OPINION**: Summer is the nicest season.

Challenge: Science is the most interesting school subject because experiments let students test ideas.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Accept any accurate, checkable statement as a fact and any personal judgment or preference as an opinion. In Part 2, students should explain that facts can be checked, while opinions express thoughts or feelings.