

Fact or Viewpoint?

Sort statements, then use clues to prove two choices.

S.CE.d "integrating evidence to construct and analyze timelines, classify events, and to distinguish fact and opinion;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

FACT

A fact is a statement that can be checked using reliable evidence, such as a document, record, or artifact. Evidence can show whether it is true or false.

Water freezes at 0°C.

OPINION

An opinion tells what someone thinks, feels, or believes. People may disagree about it, and evidence cannot prove it true or false.

Rainy afternoons are the best time to read.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle FACT or OPINION for each statement, then choose two items and explain what clues helped you decide.

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. The U.S. Constitution was signed in 1787. | ☐ FACT | ☐ OPINION |
| 2. The New Deal was the most important response to the Great Depression. | ☐ FACT | ☐ OPINION |
| 3. Ancient Rome had more exciting entertainment than ancient Greece. | ☐ FACT | ☐ OPINION |
| 4. The first successful powered airplane flight happened in 1903. | ☐ FACT | ☐ OPINION |
| 5. The Berlin Wall fell in 1989. | ☐ FACT | ☐ OPINION |
| 6. The Civil Rights Act became law in 1964. | ☐ FACT | ☐ OPINION |
| 7. The Louisiana Purchase was a wise decision. | ☐ FACT | ☐ OPINION |
| 8. Learning about local history is more useful than learning about national history. | ☐ 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 history or society.

FACT _____

OPINION _____

CHALLENGE

Write a FACT and an OPINION about the same historical topic, then name one reliable source that could verify your fact.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The U.S. Constitution was signed in 1787.	FACT	Historical records can verify the signing year.
2	The New Deal was the most important response to the Great Depression.	OPINION	"Most important" is a judgment that people may debate.
3	Ancient Rome had more exciting entertainment than ancient Greece.	OPINION	"More exciting" expresses a personal judgment.
4	The first successful powered airplane flight happened in 1903.	FACT	Flight records and historical sources can verify the year.
5	The Berlin Wall fell in 1989.	FACT	Historical records can verify this event and date.
6	The Civil Rights Act became law in 1964.	FACT	Government records can verify when the law was enacted.
7	The Louisiana Purchase was a wise decision.	OPINION	"Wise" is a judgment about the event.
8	Learning about local history is more useful than learning about national history.	OPINION	"More useful" expresses a belief that may differ by 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 United Nations was founded in 1945.
- **OPINION:** Public parks are the best places for community events.

Challenge: **FACT:** The Montgomery Bus Boycott began in 1955. **OPINION:** The Montgomery Bus Boycott was one of the bravest protests in U.S. history. A museum timeline could verify the fact.

Answers, in order: **FACT**, **OPINION**, **OPINION**, **FACT**, **FACT**, **FACT**, **OPINION**, **OPINION**. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify checkable evidence for facts or judgment words and personal beliefs for opinions.