

History Truth Test

Sort facts and opinions, then prove your thinking.

S.USI "The student will apply history and social science skills to the content by synthesizing evidence from information sources including, but not limited to artifacts, primary and secondary sources, charts, graphs..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

FACT

A fact is a statement that can be checked and proven true or false with reliable evidence.

The Constitution was signed in 1787.

OPINION

An opinion tells what someone thinks or feels. It cannot be proven true or false for everyone.

Learning about the Oregon Trail is exciting.

1 SORT

8 items

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

1. The Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776.

FACT

OPINION

2. The best way to travel west was by covered wagon.

FACT

OPINION

3. The Boston Tea Party was a brave protest.

FACT

OPINION

4. The first 10 amendments are called the Bill of Rights.

FACT

OPINION

5. The Erie Canal opened in 1825.

FACT

OPINION

6. The California Gold Rush was more important than other events.

FACT

OPINION

7. The Civil War ended in 1865.

FACT

OPINION

8. A visit to a battlefield is a sad experience.

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 about United States history and one new OPINION about United States history.

FACT _____

OPINION _____

CHALLENGE

Write one fact and one opinion about the same United States landmark. Underline the words that make the opinion a judgment.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776.	FACT	The date and event can be checked in reliable historical sources.
2	The best way to travel west was by covered wagon.	OPINION	"Best" is a judgment that people may disagree about.
3	The Boston Tea Party was a brave protest.	OPINION	"Brave" expresses a judgment about the event.
4	The first 10 amendments are called the Bill of Rights.	FACT	This can be verified in the U.S. Constitution.
5	The Erie Canal opened in 1825.	FACT	The opening year can be checked in historical records.
6	The California Gold Rush was more important than other events.	OPINION	"More important" is a judgment that cannot be proven for everyone.
7	The Civil War ended in 1865.	FACT	The year can be verified with reliable historical sources.
8	A visit to a battlefield is a sad experience.	OPINION	"Sad" describes a personal feeling.

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 States bought the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803.
- **OPINION:** The Pony Express was an exciting way to deliver mail.

Challenge: The Statue of Liberty was dedicated in 1886. The Statue of Liberty is the most beautiful monument in the United States.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify checkable evidence for a fact or judgment words and personal thinking for an opinion. Student-created answers may vary if they fit the category accurately.