

Fact or Feeling?

Sort history claims by what evidence can show.

S.USII.d “integrating evidence to construct and analyze timelines, classify events, and distinguish fact from opinion;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

FACT

A fact is a claim that evidence can check. A reliable source can show whether it is true or false.

The Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776.

OPINION

An opinion tells what someone thinks, feels, or judges. People may disagree about an opinion.

Ancient Roman roads were the most impressive roads of the ancient world.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle FACT or OPINION for each claim, then choose two items and explain what helped you classify them.

1. The first successful English settlement in North America was Jamestown, founded in 1607. FACT OPINION
2. The U.S. Constitution was signed in Philadelphia in 1787. FACT OPINION
3. The American Revolution was the most important event in United States history. FACT OPINION
4. The Oregon Trail helped many settlers travel west during the 1800s. FACT OPINION
5. Traveling the Oregon Trail was an exciting adventure. FACT OPINION
6. The best way to learn about the Civil War is to visit a battlefield. FACT OPINION
7. The Civil War began in 1861. FACT OPINION
8. The transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869. 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 claim and one new OPINION claim about history.

FACT _____

OPINION _____

CHALLENGE

Write one FACT claim about history and name one reliable source that could check it.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The first successful English settlement in North America was Jamestown, founded in 1607.	FACT	The date and settlement can be checked in reliable historical sources.
2	The U.S. Constitution was signed in Philadelphia in 1787.	FACT	The place and date can be checked with historical evidence.
3	The American Revolution was the most important event in United States history.	OPINION	"Most important" is a judgment that people may debate.
4	The Oregon Trail helped many settlers travel west during the 1800s.	FACT	Historical records can verify the trail's use and time period.
5	Traveling the Oregon Trail was an exciting adventure.	OPINION	"Exciting" describes a personal feeling or judgment.
6	The best way to learn about the Civil War is to visit a battlefield.	OPINION	"Best" is a judgment, and people may prefer other ways to learn.
7	The Civil War began in 1861.	FACT	The year can be checked in reliable historical sources.
8	The transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869.	FACT	The completion date can be checked with historical evidence.

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 purchased Alaska from Russia in 1867.
- **OPINION:** Learning about Alaska is more interesting than learning about Florida.

Challenge: **FACT:** The first Moon landing happened in 1969. A NASA mission record could check this claim.

Accept a fact claim only if it could be checked with reliable evidence, even if the student does not know whether it is true. For Part 2, students should identify checkable evidence for a fact or judgment words and possible disagreement for an opinion.