

Fact or View?

Sort U.S. history statements by what they tell you.

S.USII "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 using reliable evidence, such as a history book, document, or record.

The first permanent English settlement at Jamestown began in 1607.

OPINION

An opinion tells what someone thinks or judges. Words such as best, terrible, or exciting can signal an opinion.

Life on the Oregon Trail sounds exhausting.

1 SORT

8 items

Part 1: Circle FACT or OPINION for each statement; Part 2: choose two statements and explain which words or details helped you sort each one.

1. The Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776.

FACT

OPINION

2. The U.S. Constitution created three branches of government.

FACT

OPINION

3. The Boston Tea Party was the bravest protest in U.S. history.

FACT

OPINION

4. The Civil War ended in 1865.

FACT

OPINION

5. The Louisiana Purchase was a terrible decision.

FACT

OPINION

6. Abraham Lincoln was the most inspiring president.

FACT

OPINION

7. The transcontinental railroad linked the eastern U.S. rail network to the Pacific coast.

FACT

OPINION

8. Women's suffrage was the most important reform in U.S. 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 about U.S. history and one new OPINION about U.S. history.

FACT _____

OPINION _____

CHALLENGE

Write one FACT and one OPINION about the same U.S. history event. Then name the judgment word in your opinion.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776.	FACT	Its date can be verified with historical records.
2	The U.S. Constitution created three branches of government.	FACT	The Constitution can be checked as a primary source.
3	The Boston Tea Party was the bravest protest in U.S. history.	OPINION	Bravest is a personal judgment that cannot be proved.
4	The Civil War ended in 1865.	FACT	The ending year can be verified with historical evidence.
5	The Louisiana Purchase was a terrible decision.	OPINION	Terrible expresses a judgment.
6	Abraham Lincoln was the most inspiring president.	OPINION	Most inspiring is a personal judgment.
7	The transcontinental railroad linked the eastern U.S. rail network to the Pacific coast.	FACT	This can be verified with maps and historical records.
8	Women's suffrage was the most important reform in U.S. history.	OPINION	Most important is a judgment that people may debate.

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 Erie Canal opened in 1825.
- **OPINION:** The Erie Canal was an amazing achievement.

Challenge: **FACT:** The National Park Service was created in 1916. **OPINION:** Creating national parks was a wise choice. Judgment word: wise.

For Part 2, students should explain that facts can be checked with evidence and opinions include a judgment or personal belief. Accept accurate student-created examples that clearly fit the category.