

Fact or Feeling?

Sort statements by what can be checked.

S.VS "The student will apply history and social science skills to the content by analyzing and interpreting information sources including, but not limited to artifacts, primary and secondary sources, charts, graphs, and diagrams..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

FACT

A fact is a statement that can be checked using reliable evidence, such as a map, a document, or a book.

The Atlantic Ocean is east of the United States.

OPINION

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

Visiting the ocean is the best kind of trip.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For Part 1, circle FACT or OPINION for each statement, then for Part 2, choose two items and explain the clues that helped you sort them.

1. The United States has 50 states. FACT OPINION
2. Learning about the past is more fun than learning about science. FACT OPINION
3. Mountains are the most beautiful landforms. FACT OPINION
4. The Mississippi River flows into the Gulf of Mexico. FACT OPINION
5. The Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776. FACT OPINION
6. A community should always build more parks. FACT OPINION
7. The Statue of Liberty stands in New York Harbor. FACT OPINION
8. The U.S. Capitol is in Washington, D.C. 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

For Part 3, write one new FACT and one new OPINION about history, geography, or a community.

FACT _____

OPINION _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one OPINION from Part 1 and rewrite it as a FACT that could be checked.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The United States has 50 states.	FACT	The number of states can be checked on an official map or in a reliable source.
2	Learning about the past is more fun than learning about science.	OPINION	Fun is a personal feeling that different people may not share.
3	Mountains are the most beautiful landforms.	OPINION	Beautiful is a judgment, not something that can be proven.
4	The Mississippi River flows into the Gulf of Mexico.	FACT	This geographic statement can be verified with a map.
5	The Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776.	FACT	A historical document and reliable sources can verify the date.
6	A community should always build more parks.	OPINION	Should shows a belief about what a community ought to do.
7	The Statue of Liberty stands in New York Harbor.	FACT	Its location can be checked with a map or reliable source.
8	The U.S. Capitol is in Washington, D.C.	FACT	The location of the Capitol can be verified.

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:** George Washington was the first president of the United States.
- **OPINION:** George Washington was the most interesting president.

Challenge: **OPINION:** Mountains are the most beautiful landforms. **FACT:** Mountains are landforms that rise high above the land around them.

Accept explanations that identify checkable evidence for facts or personal beliefs, feelings, judgments, or the word should for opinions. A fact may be unfamiliar to students, but it must be verifiable.