

Landscape Detectives

See how people and nature shape places.

WG.11.c “analyzing cultural influences and landscapes; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

A cultural landscape is shaped by people, including their work, traditions, beliefs, or buildings.

A festival ground arranged around a sacred shrine.

NATURAL LANDSCAPE

A natural landscape is formed by natural processes, not built or changed by people.

An ice sheet covers a polar plain.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

In Part 1, circle the category for each item; in Part 2, choose two numbered items and explain which details show each category.

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Farmers cut steps into a mountainside to grow crops. | ☐ CULTURAL | ☐ NATURAL |
| 2. A plaza has monuments celebrating the nation's history. | ☐ CULTURAL | ☐ NATURAL |
| 3. A canyon was carved by a river. | ☐ CULTURAL | ☐ NATURAL |
| 4. Rows of grapevines cover a hillside. | ☐ CULTURAL | ☐ NATURAL |
| 5. Wind-shaped dunes stretch across a desert. | ☐ CULTURAL | ☐ NATURAL |
| 6. A lava field formed after a volcanic eruption. | ☐ CULTURAL | ☐ NATURAL |
| 7. A neighborhood has homes built in a traditional style. | ☐ CULTURAL | ☐ NATURAL |
| 8. A network of canals carries water to farmland. | ☐ CULTURAL | ☐ NATURAL |

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

In Part 3, write one new cultural landscape example and one new natural landscape example.

CULTURAL _____

NATURAL _____

CHALLENGE

Describe a place with both cultural and natural landscape features. Identify one feature of each type and explain how the natural feature affects the cultural feature.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Farmers cut steps into a mountainside to grow crops.	CULTURAL	People reshaped the land for farming.
2	A plaza has monuments celebrating the nation's history.	CULTURAL	People built the monuments to reflect history and values.
3	A canyon was carved by a river.	NATURAL	Flowing water created the landform naturally.
4	Rows of grapevines cover a hillside.	CULTURAL	People planted and organized the vines for farming.
5	Wind-shaped dunes stretch across a desert.	NATURAL	Wind naturally moves sand and forms dunes.
6	A lava field formed after a volcanic eruption.	NATURAL	Volcanic activity formed the lava field.
7	A neighborhood has homes built in a traditional style.	CULTURAL	The homes show people's building traditions.
8	A network of canals carries water to farmland.	CULTURAL	People constructed canals to support farming.

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)

- **CULTURAL:** A pilgrimage route marked by shrines and resting places.
- **NATURAL:** A river canyon carved by flowing water.

Challenge: At a coastal village, fishing docks are cultural features because people built them for work. The nearby rocky shore is a natural feature. The shore helps shape where the village's fishing activity occurs.

Accept equivalent explanations that identify human shaping, beliefs, work, or traditions for CULTURAL and natural processes for NATURAL. Part 2 and Part 3 responses will vary.