

Region Clue Sort

Sort geographic clues into Australia or the Pacific Islands.

WG.11 "The student will analyze the characteristics of the Australian and Pacific Islands regions by identifying and analyzing the location of major geographic regions and major cities on maps and globes..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

AUSTRALIA

Choose AUSTRALIA for information about the country of Australia, including its cities, landforms, culture, or economy.

Perth is a major city in western Australia.

PACIFIC ISLANDS

Choose PACIFIC for information about the island nations and island groups spread across the Pacific Ocean.

Samoa is an island nation in the Pacific Ocean.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Part 1: Circle AUSTRALIA or PACIFIC for each clue; Part 2: Choose two items and explain which clues placed each item in its region.

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Canberra is the capital city of Australia. | ☐ AUSTRALIA | ☐ PACIFIC |
| 2. Fiji is an island nation in the South Pacific. | ☐ AUSTRALIA | ☐ PACIFIC |
| 3. Low coral atolls can be affected by rising sea levels. | ☐ AUSTRALIA | ☐ PACIFIC |
| 4. The Great Barrier Reef lies off northeastern Australia. | ☐ AUSTRALIA | ☐ PACIFIC |
| 5. Iron ore from Western Australia is shipped to overseas buyers. | ☐ AUSTRALIA | ☐ PACIFIC |
| 6. Kava ceremonies are an important cultural tradition in Fiji. | ☐ AUSTRALIA | ☐ PACIFIC |
| 7. The Murray-Darling Basin is a major river system in Australia. | ☐ AUSTRALIA | ☐ PACIFIC |
| 8. Tuna fishing supports jobs and exports in several Pacific Island nations. | ☐ AUSTRALIA | ☐ PACIFIC |

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

Part 3: Write one new example for AUSTRALIA and one new example for PACIFIC.

AUSTRALIA _____

PACIFIC _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences comparing one economic activity in Australia with one economic activity in a Pacific Island nation. Name each place, identify its region, and explain how each activity connects to global trade.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Canberra is the capital city of Australia.	AUSTRALIA	Canberra is Australia's national capital.
2	Fiji is an island nation in the South Pacific.	PACIFIC	Fiji is a Pacific Island nation.
3	Low coral atolls can be affected by rising sea levels.	PACIFIC	Many Pacific Island nations include low-lying coral atolls vulnerable to sea-level rise.
4	The Great Barrier Reef lies off northeastern Australia.	AUSTRALIA	The Great Barrier Reef is off Queensland, Australia.
5	Iron ore from Western Australia is shipped to overseas buyers.	AUSTRALIA	Western Australia is a major iron ore producer and exporter.
6	Kava ceremonies are an important cultural tradition in Fiji.	PACIFIC	Kava has important cultural roles in Fiji and other Pacific Island societies.
7	The Murray-Darling Basin is a major river system in Australia.	AUSTRALIA	The Murray-Darling Basin is in southeastern Australia.
8	Tuna fishing supports jobs and exports in several Pacific Island nations.	PACIFIC	Tuna fisheries are important economic activities across many Pacific Island nations.

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)

- **AUSTRALIA:** Sydney is a major city on Australia's southeast coast.
- **PACIFIC:** Tourism brings income to Vanuatu, a Pacific Island nation.

Challenge: In Australia, iron ore mining in Western Australia supplies steelmakers in countries such as China. In the Pacific Islands, tuna caught near Kiribati is sold to overseas markets, linking fishing to global trade.

Accept Part 2 explanations that name a regional clue, such as a country, city, landform, or economic activity. For the challenge, students must clearly identify one Australian place and one Pacific Island place.