

Landscapes Tell Stories

Sort features shaped by culture from features shaped by nature.

WG.3.c “analyzing cultural influences and landscapes; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

A cultural landscape shows how people’s beliefs, work, or traditions have shaped a place. It may include buildings, farms, roads, or signs.

A neighborhood mosque with Arabic signs

PHYSICAL LANDSCAPE

A physical landscape is made by natural processes. It includes landforms and natural features such as rivers, mountains, and caves.

A glacier-carved valley

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle CULTURAL or PHYSICAL for each item, then choose two items for Part 2 and explain what evidence helped you sort them.

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Rice terraces cut into a hillside | ☐ CULTURAL | ☐ PHYSICAL |
| 2. A historic stone temple | ☐ CULTURAL | ☐ PHYSICAL |
| 3. A volcanic crater | ☐ CULTURAL | ☐ PHYSICAL |
| 4. Bilingual street signs | ☐ CULTURAL | ☐ PHYSICAL |
| 5. Sand dunes formed by wind | ☐ CULTURAL | ☐ PHYSICAL |
| 6. A naturally formed coral reef | ☐ CULTURAL | ☐ PHYSICAL |
| 7. A harbor built for a fishing community | ☐ CULTURAL | ☐ PHYSICAL |
| 8. A limestone cave | ☐ CULTURAL | ☐ PHYSICAL |

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 CULTURAL landscape example and one new PHYSICAL landscape example.

CULTURAL _____

PHYSICAL _____

CHALLENGE

Choose a familiar place and describe one cultural landscape feature and one physical landscape feature there. Explain how you can tell which is which.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Rice terraces cut into a hillside	CULTURAL	People built and maintain terraces to grow crops.
2	A historic stone temple	CULTURAL	People constructed the temple, and it reflects beliefs and traditions.
3	A volcanic crater	PHYSICAL	Volcanic activity creates a crater through natural processes.
4	Bilingual street signs	CULTURAL	People create signs, and the languages reflect the community's culture.
5	Sand dunes formed by wind	PHYSICAL	Wind moves sand and forms dunes naturally.
6	A naturally formed coral reef	PHYSICAL	Coral reefs are natural features formed by living organisms and natural processes.
7	A harbor built for a fishing community	CULTURAL	People built the harbor for work and community life.
8	A limestone cave	PHYSICAL	Water slowly dissolves limestone and forms caves naturally.

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 city block with homes built in a local adobe style.
- **PHYSICAL:** A river-cut canyon.

Challenge: At a coastal town, a lighthouse built by people is a cultural landscape feature. The nearby rocky shoreline is a physical landscape feature because natural processes formed it.

Accept explanations that identify people's choices, work, beliefs, or traditions for cultural landscapes, and natural processes for physical landscapes. A feature can be affected by both people and nature, but students should classify it by the main evidence named in the item.