

Region Clue Sort

Tell natural features from features shaped by people.

WG.3 "The student will analyze the characteristics of the regions of the United States and Canada by identifying and analyzing the location of major geographic regions and major cities on maps and globes..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

PHYSICAL FEATURE

A physical feature is formed by nature. It can be a landform, body of water, or climate area.

A desert with very little rainfall

HUMAN FEATURE

A human feature is created or strongly shaped by people. It can show where people live, work, travel, or share culture.

A railroad built to carry passengers

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For each item, circle PHYSICAL or HUMAN, then choose two items and write one sentence for each that tells which clue proves its category.

1. Rocky Mountains

PHYSICAL

HUMAN

2. Great Lakes

PHYSICAL

HUMAN

3. Port of Vancouver moving goods across the Pacific

PHYSICAL

HUMAN

4. Mississippi River

PHYSICAL

HUMAN

5. Corn farms in Iowa

PHYSICAL

HUMAN

6. Toronto's skyscraper skyline

PHYSICAL

HUMAN

7. Atlantic Coastal Plain

PHYSICAL

HUMAN

8. Arctic tundra

PHYSICAL

HUMAN

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 PHYSICAL example and one new HUMAN example from the United States or Canada.

PHYSICAL _____

HUMAN _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one physical feature and one human feature from the same U.S. or Canadian region, then write two sentences explaining how the physical feature affects the human feature.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Rocky Mountains	PHYSICAL	A mountain range is a natural landform.
2	Great Lakes	PHYSICAL	The Great Lakes are natural bodies of freshwater.
3	Port of Vancouver moving goods across the Pacific	HUMAN	A port and its trade activities are developed and operated by people.
4	Mississippi River	PHYSICAL	A river is a natural water feature.
5	Corn farms in Iowa	HUMAN	Farming is an economic activity shaped by people.
6	Toronto's skyscraper skyline	HUMAN	Buildings and city skylines are human-made features.
7	Atlantic Coastal Plain	PHYSICAL	A coastal plain is a natural landform region.
8	Arctic tundra	PHYSICAL	Tundra is a natural environmental region with cold conditions and low-growing plants.

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)

- **PHYSICAL:** Mojave Desert
- **HUMAN:** Oil refineries along the Gulf Coast

Challenge: In the Pacific Northwest, Puget Sound provides a protected waterway. Seattle developed as a major port because ships can use this waterway.

Accept a proof sentence when it correctly identifies whether the feature formed naturally or was created or strongly shaped by people. For the challenge, students should name connected features from the same region and accurately explain the relationship.