

People or Nature?

Sort landscape features by what shaped them.

WG.4.c “analyzing cultural influences and landscapes; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

People create or greatly change cultural landscapes. Buildings, farms, roads, and other human-made features can shape a place.

A canal built to carry water through a city.

PHYSICAL LANDSCAPE

Natural forces shape physical landscapes. Landforms, water, plants, and rocks can be part of a physical landscape.

A rocky coastline shaped by ocean waves.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

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

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Terraced rice fields cut into a hillside | ☐ CULTURAL | ☐ PHYSICAL |
| 2. A highway interchange | ☐ CULTURAL | ☐ PHYSICAL |
| 3. A glacier moving through a valley | ☐ CULTURAL | ☐ PHYSICAL |
| 4. An ancient stone wall around a settlement | ☐ CULTURAL | ☐ PHYSICAL |
| 5. A volcano | ☐ CULTURAL | ☐ PHYSICAL |
| 6. Desert sand dunes shaped by wind | ☐ CULTURAL | ☐ PHYSICAL |
| 7. A vineyard planted in rows | ☐ CULTURAL | ☐ PHYSICAL |
| 8. A bridge crossing a river | ☐ 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

Describe a place where human activity changes a natural landscape. In two sentences, identify one PHYSICAL feature and one CULTURAL feature.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Terraced rice fields cut into a hillside	CULTURAL	People carved and farmed the hillside.
2	A highway interchange	CULTURAL	People designed and built the roads.
3	A glacier moving through a valley	PHYSICAL	Ice and natural forces formed and move the glacier.
4	An ancient stone wall around a settlement	CULTURAL	People built the wall.
5	A volcano	PHYSICAL	Earth processes form volcanoes.
6	Desert sand dunes shaped by wind	PHYSICAL	Wind naturally moves sand into dunes.
7	A vineyard planted in rows	CULTURAL	People planted and manage the grapevines.
8	A bridge crossing a river	CULTURAL	People engineered and built the bridge.

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 neighborhood of apartment buildings.
- **PHYSICAL:** A forest of pine trees growing on a mountain.

Challenge: A river is a PHYSICAL landscape feature. A dam built across the river is a CULTURAL landscape feature because people made it.

Accept answers based on whether people created or greatly changed the feature, or whether natural forces shaped it. In Part 2, students should name a specific clue, such as people building, planting, or engineering a feature, or natural forces shaping it.