

Place Name Detectives

Sort named places as cities or geographic regions.

WG.8.a "identifying and analyzing the location of major geographic regions and major cities on maps and globes;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

MAJOR CITY

A major city is a large, named settlement where people live and work. Cities are specific places, not broad areas.

Paris

GEOGRAPHIC REGION

A geographic region is a broad area with shared physical or human features. A region can include many places.

the Arctic

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For each location, circle CITY or REGION, then choose two items and explain which clues helped you sort them.

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Tokyo | ☐ CITY | ☐ REGION |
| 2. Cairo | ☐ CITY | ☐ REGION |
| 3. Sahara Desert | ☐ CITY | ☐ REGION |
| 4. São Paulo | ☐ CITY | ☐ REGION |
| 5. Himalayas | ☐ CITY | ☐ REGION |
| 6. Amazon Basin | ☐ CITY | ☐ REGION |
| 7. Sydney | ☐ CITY | ☐ REGION |
| 8. Mexico City | ☐ CITY | ☐ REGION |

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 example of a CITY and one new example of a REGION.

CITY _____

REGION _____

CHALLENGE

Use an atlas or globe to locate one city and one region from the sort list, then write the continent and one relative-location phrase for each.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Tokyo	CITY	Tokyo is a major city in Japan.
2	Cairo	CITY	Cairo is a major city in Egypt.
3	Sahara Desert	REGION	The Sahara is a vast desert region in northern Africa.
4	São Paulo	CITY	São Paulo is a major city in Brazil.
5	Himalayas	REGION	The Himalayas are a major mountain region in Asia.
6	Amazon Basin	REGION	The Amazon Basin is a broad geographic region in South America.
7	Sydney	CITY	Sydney is a major city in Australia.
8	Mexico City	CITY	Mexico City is a major city in Mexico.

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)

- **CITY:** London
- **REGION:** Great Plains

Challenge: Cairo is in Africa, in the northeast part of the continent. The Amazon Basin is in South America, across much of the northern part of the continent.

Accept Part 2 explanations that identify a city as a specific settlement and a region as a broad area. For the challenge, accept accurate continent names and reasonable relative-location descriptions based on the map or globe used.