

Feature or Change?

Sort what a place is like from how it changes.

WG.8.b "describing major physical and environmental features and how geography may change over time;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

PHYSICAL FEATURE

A physical or environmental feature is a part or condition of Earth that can be described at a given time. It tells what a place is like.

A plateau is a broad, high area with a flat top.

GEOGRAPHIC CHANGE

A geographic change tells how Earth's surface or environment becomes different over time. It often includes an action or process.

An earthquake raises a section of the seafloor.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For each item, circle FEATURE or CHANGE, then choose two items and explain what words or ideas helped you decide.

- | | | |
|--|---------|--------|
| 1. The Himalayas are a mountain range. | FEATURE | CHANGE |
| <hr/> | | |
| 2. A river cuts a deeper canyon over many years. | FEATURE | CHANGE |
| <hr/> | | |
| 3. A glacier melts and exposes new land. | FEATURE | CHANGE |
| <hr/> | | |
| 4. The Amazon is a major river. | FEATURE | CHANGE |
| <hr/> | | |
| 5. The Sahara is a vast desert. | FEATURE | CHANGE |
| <hr/> | | |
| 6. Waves wear away a beach, moving the shoreline inland. | FEATURE | CHANGE |
| <hr/> | | |
| 7. The Great Lakes are large freshwater lakes. | FEATURE | CHANGE |
| <hr/> | | |
| 8. Arctic tundra is a cold, mostly treeless biome with permafrost. | FEATURE | CHANGE |
| <hr/> | | |

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 physical feature and one new example of a geographic change.

FEATURE _____

CHANGE _____

CHALLENGE

Choose a physical feature. In two sentences, name a process that could change it and describe the change.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The Himalayas are a mountain range.	FEATURE	Names a present-day mountain range, not a process.
2	A river cuts a deeper canyon over many years.	CHANGE	Describes erosion changing the land over time.
3	A glacier melts and exposes new land.	CHANGE	Describes a process that changes the surface over time.
4	The Amazon is a major river.	FEATURE	Names a river as a physical feature.
5	The Sahara is a vast desert.	FEATURE	Describes a desert as a physical feature.
6	Waves wear away a beach, moving the shoreline inland.	CHANGE	Describes erosion changing the shoreline.
7	The Great Lakes are large freshwater lakes.	FEATURE	Names lakes as physical features.
8	Arctic tundra is a cold, mostly treeless biome with permafrost.	FEATURE	Describes an environmental feature of a region.

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)

- **FEATURE:** Physical Feature: The Great Barrier Reef is a large coral reef in the Coral Sea.
- **CHANGE:** Geographic Change: A river deposits sediment and forms a new delta over time.

Challenge: The Mississippi River is a physical feature. Flooding can erode its banks and shift its channel over time.

Answers: 1 FEATURE, 2 CHANGE, 3 CHANGE, 4 FEATURE, 5 FEATURE, 6 CHANGE, 7 FEATURE, 8 FEATURE. In Part 2, look for evidence that identifies a present condition or describes a process over time.