

Place Maker Detectives

Sort landscapes shaped by people or by nature.

WG.9.c “analyzing cultural influences and landscapes; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

A cultural landscape is a place people have built or changed. It can show how people live, work, or use land.

A network of irrigation canals carries water to fields.

NATURAL LANDSCAPE

A natural landscape is shaped mainly by natural processes. Wind, water, ice, and volcanoes can shape the land.

A rocky mountain peak is shaped by erosion.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For Part 1, circle the category for each item; for Part 2, choose two numbered items and explain in one sentence each what evidence helped you sort them.

1. A historic district of brick row houses

CULTURAL

NATURAL

2. A river-carved canyon

CULTURAL

NATURAL

3. A volcanic lava field

CULTURAL

NATURAL

4. Terraced hillsides built for farming

CULTURAL

NATURAL

5. A highway interchange

CULTURAL

NATURAL

6. A glacier-carved U-shaped valley

CULTURAL

NATURAL

7. A city park with paths, lawns, and monuments

CULTURAL

NATURAL

8. A commercial fishing harbor with docks

CULTURAL

NATURAL

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

Part 3: Write one new example of a cultural landscape and one new example of a natural landscape.

CULTURAL _____

NATURAL _____

CHALLENGE

In two sentences, explain how one natural feature can influence a cultural landscape. Name both features and tell how they connect.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A historic district of brick row houses	CULTURAL	People built the homes and organized them into a neighborhood.
2	A river-carved canyon	NATURAL	Flowing water carved the canyon through natural erosion.
3	A volcanic lava field	NATURAL	Volcanic activity created the lava field.
4	Terraced hillsides built for farming	CULTURAL	People reshaped the hillsides to grow crops.
5	A highway interchange	CULTURAL	People constructed the roads and interchange.
6	A glacier-carved U-shaped valley	NATURAL	Moving ice carved the valley.
7	A city park with paths, lawns, and monuments	CULTURAL	People designed and maintained the park features.
8	A commercial fishing harbor with docks	CULTURAL	People built the docks and developed the harbor for work.

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:** Cultural landscape: A vineyard with planted rows and a winery.
- **NATURAL:** Natural landscape: A coral reef formed by living corals.

Challenge: A river can influence a cultural landscape because people may build farms beside it for water. The river is natural, and the farms are part of a cultural landscape.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify people building or changing land for cultural landscapes, or natural forces shaping land for natural landscapes. Student-created examples may vary if they clearly fit the category.