

# Fact vs Opinion

## Lesson 1: Can it be checked?

**GRADES 3-5****FACT****OPINION****ANCHOR CHART****2 ORIGINAL PASSAGES****SORT + EXIT TICKET**

### WHAT'S INSIDE

- Teacher page: goal, 15-20 minute plan, standards
- Illustrated anchor chart
- Guided passage with think-aloud notes (Level A)
- Independent passage (Level B) + 5 questions
- Cut-and-glue sort (12 cards) + mat
- Exit ticket (two per page) and answer keys

## Fact or opinion? Can it be checked?

### LEARNING GOAL

I can tell a fact from an opinion by asking one question: can it be checked?

### THE 15-20 MINUTE LESSON

|              |              |                                                                                                                             |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>3 min</b> | <b>Hook</b>  | Anchor chart (page 3): read the two sea otter examples. Ask: which one could you prove? How?                                |
| <b>8 min</b> | <b>I do</b>  | Read Sea Otters aloud (page 4). Think aloud with the notes for sentences 1, 2, 3, 12 and 14. Students fill the F / O strip. |
| <b>5 min</b> | <b>We do</b> | Partners label the other sentences and name the clue word or the way to check.                                              |
| <b>3 min</b> | <b>Check</b> | Exit ticket (page 9), two per page.                                                                                         |

Next day, centers or homework: the Honeybees passage and five questions (pages 5-6) and the cut-and-glue sort (pages 7-8). Answer key: page 10.

Say: A fact can be checked and proved true. An opinion tells what someone thinks, feels, or believes. Clue words help, but they are clues, not rules. Our question today is: can it be checked?

### LISTEN AND LOOK FOR

- Students name HOW they would check a fact: look it up, measure or count, or observe it.
- Students still ask the question when there is no clue word (sentences 12 and 15) and when should belongs to a rule (sentence 14).
- A student who calls a surprising fact an opinion (a butterfly tastes with its feet) needs one more example: surprising is not the same as opinion.

### STANDARDS (WORDING CHECKED AGAINST THE OFFICIAL COMMON CORE TEXT)

|               |                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RI.3.1</b> | Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.                        |
| <b>RI.4.8</b> | Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text.                                                                |
| <b>RI.5.8</b> | Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text, identifying which reasons and evidence support which point(s). |

Common Core does not list fact and opinion as its own standard in Grades 3-5; check your state or district document for its wording. The questions ask students to answer from the text (RI.3.1, and RI.4.1 and RI.5.1 at those grades); Lesson 4 is the bridge to RI.4.8 and RI.5.8 and to opinion writing (W.3.1, W.4.1, W.5.1).

### WHERE THIS LESSON FITS

This is Lesson 1 of the Fact vs Opinion Complete Unit (Grades 3-5). Page 11 shows real pages from the unit and what it adds.

# Fact or Opinion?

Ask: Can it be checked?



## FACT

A fact can be checked and proved true.

Check it: look it up, measure or count, or observe it yourself.

### EXAMPLE

“Sea otters float on their backs to eat.”



## OPINION

An opinion tells what someone thinks, feels, or believes. It cannot be proved.

Clue words: best, worst, cutest, most fun, beautiful, should, I think.

### EXAMPLE

“Sea otters are the cutest animals on the coast.”

## TRICKY!

- 1 Tallest, fastest, and largest can be measured, so they can be facts. Best, cutest, and most fun cannot be measured.
- 2 A fact can be surprising. Surprising is not the same as opinion.
- 3 Agreeing with a sentence does not make it a fact. Ask: can it be checked?
- 4 Clue words are clues, not rules. “An eagle can see better than a person” has better, but it can be checked: FACT. “Winter lasts too long” has no clue word, but it cannot be checked: OPINION.

Follow along as your teacher reads. Your teacher will think aloud about the sentences with notes. Then write F or O for every numbered sentence.



## Sea Otters

● Level A · 160 words

- 1 Sea otters live in the Pacific Ocean near the shore.
- 2 Sea otters are the cutest animals on the coast. 3 A sea otter has thicker fur than any other animal. 4 Its thick fur keeps it warm in the cold sea.
- 5 Sea otters float on their backs to eat. 6 An otter can use a rock to crack open a clam. 7 I think that is the smartest trick in the sea. 8 It can keep a rock in a fold of skin under its arm.
- 9 Resting otters wrap themselves in kelp so they do not drift. 10 A group of resting otters is called a raft. 11 A mother otter often carries her pup on her chest. 12 No one could ever get tired of watching them.
- 13 Wild otters may swim away if people get too close.
- 14 The rules say people should give wild otters lots of space. 15 A day at the beach is not the same without otters. 16 Everyone should see sea otters at least once.

### THINK ALOUD

#### 1 Can I check it?

Yes. I can look it up in a book about the ocean. FACT.

#### 2 Clue word: cutest

Cutest is a feeling. Others may disagree. OPINION.

#### 3 Tricky!

Scientists can measure how thick fur is. FACT.

#### 12 No clue word

No tool can check it. It is a feeling. OPINION.

#### 14 Clues, not rules

It tells what the rules say. I can look them up. FACT.

Write F (fact) or O (opinion) for each numbered sentence.

|   |                      |    |                      |    |                      |    |                      |    |                      |    |                      |    |                      |    |                      |
|---|----------------------|----|----------------------|----|----------------------|----|----------------------|----|----------------------|----|----------------------|----|----------------------|----|----------------------|
| 1 | <input type="text"/> | 2  | <input type="text"/> | 3  | <input type="text"/> | 4  | <input type="text"/> | 5  | <input type="text"/> | 6  | <input type="text"/> | 7  | <input type="text"/> | 8  | <input type="text"/> |
| 9 | <input type="text"/> | 10 | <input type="text"/> | 11 | <input type="text"/> | 12 | <input type="text"/> | 13 | <input type="text"/> | 14 | <input type="text"/> | 15 | <input type="text"/> | 16 | <input type="text"/> |

Read the passage. Then answer the questions on the next page. Look for clue words, and ask: can it be checked?



## Honeybees

■ Level B • 207 words

- 1 Honeybees live together in large groups called colonies. A strong colony can have more than 20,000 bees. Each colony has one queen, and she can lay more than 1,000 eggs in a single day. Most of the bees in a colony are workers.
- 2 A honeybee has five eyes. Two large eyes are on the sides of its head, and three tiny eyes are on top. Bees can see some colors that people cannot see. That makes bees the most amazing insects in the garden.
- 3 When a bee finds flowers far from the hive, it flies back and does a special dance called the waggle dance. The dance shows the other bees which way to fly to find the flowers. Watching the waggle dance is the most fun way to learn about bees. Bees turn nectar into honey and store it in wax cells. Honey on warm toast is delicious. Beekeepers say you should move slowly and stay calm near a hive.
- 4 As bees fly from flower to flower, they carry pollen that helps plants make seeds and fruit. A garden without bees is a sad place. In my opinion, bees are the most important insects on Earth. Everyone should plant flowers that bees like, such as clover and mint.

**Honeybees: questions**

Use the Honeybees passage to answer each question.

- 1** Which sentence from the passage is a **FACT**?
  - (A)** That makes bees the most amazing insects in the garden.
  - (B)** A garden without bees is a sad place.
  - (C)** A honeybee has five eyes.
  - (D)** Everyone should plant flowers that bees like, such as clover and mint.
  
- 2** Which sentence from the passage is an **OPINION**?
  - (A)** The dance shows the other bees which way to fly to find the flowers.
  - (B)** Watching the waggle dance is the most fun way to learn about bees.
  - (C)** Beekeepers say you should move slowly and stay calm near a hive.
  - (D)** A strong colony can have more than 20,000 bees.
  
- 3** Circle the clue word that makes this sentence an opinion.  
"Honey on warm toast is delicious."
  
- 4** Paragraph 2 says a honeybee has five eyes. Is that a fact or an opinion? How could you check it?  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- 5** The author thinks everyone should plant flowers for bees. Copy one **FACT** from paragraph 4 that the author uses to support this opinion.  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON 1 · SORT

**Fact or opinion? Cut and sort**

Cut out the 12 cards. Read each one and ask: can it be checked? Glue it on the mat under **FACT** or **OPINION**.

1

All spiders have eight legs.

2

Math is easy.

3

Penguins are the cutest birds.

4

Cats can see better in dim light than people can.

5

Recess is the most fun part of the day.

6

The Pacific is the biggest ocean of all.

7

A spider would be too scary to keep as a pet.

8

Penguins never fly.

9

Winter is too cold and too dark for anyone to enjoy.

10

Pizza is a delicious lunch.

11

Chess is a fun game for kids to learn at school.

12

Our solar system has only one star, the Sun.

Glue each card in a box under FACT or under OPINION.



## FACT

can be checked



## OPINION

thinks or feels

glue

glue

glue

glue

glue

glue

glue

glue

glue

glue

glue

glue

glue

glue

## LESSON 1 · EXIT TICKET

## Check your thinking

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- 1 Fact or opinion?

“A butterfly can taste with its feet.”

Circle one:

FACT

OPINION

- 2 Circle the clue word that makes this an opinion.

“Butterflies are the prettiest insects in the garden.”

- 3 Write one fact about your school. Then write one opinion about your school.

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cut

## LESSON 1 · EXIT TICKET

## Check your thinking

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- 1 Fact or opinion?

“A butterfly can taste with its feet.”

Circle one:

FACT

OPINION

- 2 Circle the clue word that makes this an opinion.

“Butterflies are the prettiest insects in the garden.”

- 3 Write one fact about your school. Then write one opinion about your school.

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## Lesson 1

## GUIDED PASSAGE: SEA OTTERS (SENTENCES 1-16)

|   |                |                         |    |                |                          |
|---|----------------|-------------------------|----|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | <b>FACT</b>    | can be checked          | 9  | <b>FACT</b>    | can be checked           |
| 2 | <b>OPINION</b> | clue: cutest            | 10 | <b>FACT</b>    | can be checked           |
| 3 | <b>FACT</b>    | can be checked          | 11 | <b>FACT</b>    | can be checked           |
| 4 | <b>FACT</b>    | can be checked          | 12 | <b>OPINION</b> | no clue word             |
| 5 | <b>FACT</b>    | can be checked          | 13 | <b>FACT</b>    | can be checked           |
| 6 | <b>FACT</b>    | can be checked          | 14 | <b>FACT</b>    | tells what the rules say |
| 7 | <b>OPINION</b> | clue: I think, smartest | 15 | <b>OPINION</b> | no clue word             |
| 8 | <b>FACT</b>    | can be checked          | 16 | <b>OPINION</b> | clue: should             |

## INDEPENDENT PRACTICE: HONEYBEES

|   |                                                                                                     |                                                             |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | <b>C</b>                                                                                            | B has no clue word but is an opinion                        |
| 2 | <b>B</b>                                                                                            | C has should, but it tells what beekeepers say: a fact      |
| 3 | <b>delicious</b>                                                                                    | a judging word; it cannot be checked                        |
| 4 | <b>FACT. Sample: look it up in a science book or on a museum website about bees.</b>                | any real way to check earns the point                       |
| 5 | <b>As bees fly from flower to flower, they carry pollen that helps plants make seeds and fruit.</b> | paragraph 4; this fact explains why flowers for bees matter |

## CUT-AND-GLUE SORT

|               |                |                          |                |                |                    |
|---------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| <b>Card 1</b> | <b>FACT</b>    |                          | <b>Card 7</b>  | <b>OPINION</b> | trap: no clue word |
| <b>Card 2</b> | <b>OPINION</b> | trap: no clue word       | <b>Card 8</b>  | <b>FACT</b>    |                    |
| <b>Card 3</b> | <b>OPINION</b> | clue: cutest             | <b>Card 9</b>  | <b>OPINION</b> | trap: no clue word |
| <b>Card 4</b> | <b>FACT</b>    | trap: better is measured | <b>Card 10</b> | <b>OPINION</b> | clue: delicious    |
| <b>Card 5</b> | <b>OPINION</b> | clue: most fun           | <b>Card 11</b> | <b>OPINION</b> | clue: fun          |
| <b>Card 6</b> | <b>FACT</b>    |                          | <b>Card 12</b> | <b>FACT</b>    |                    |

## EXIT TICKET

|   |                     |                                                    |
|---|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | <b>FACT</b>         | surprising, but a scientist can check it           |
| 2 | <b>prettiest</b>    | a judging word                                     |
| 3 | <b>Answers vary</b> | fact: can be checked; opinion: what someone thinks |

# Fact vs Opinion Complete Unit • Grades 3-5

Real pages from the unit (reduced):

**MILESTONE READING SKILLS • FACT VS OPINION**  
**PRE-ASSESSMENT Form A**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Read each sentence carefully. Take your time. Score: \_\_\_\_ / 12

**PART A: CIRCLE FACT OR OPINION**

- 1 "Summer vacation is the best part of the year."  
Circle one: **FACT** **OPINION**
- 2 "A giraffe's tongue can be about 20 inches long."  
Circle one: **FACT** **OPINION**
- 3 "The giraffe is the tallest animal on land."  
Circle one: **FACT** **OPINION**
- 4 "Giraffes have the prettiest spots of any animal."  
Circle one: **FACT** **OPINION**
- 5 "A dog can smell much better than a person can."  
Circle one: **FACT** **OPINION**
- 6 "Every zoo needs a giraffe."  
Circle one: **FACT** **OPINION**

**PART B: CLUE WORDS**

- 7 Circle the clue word that makes this an opinion.  
"A baby giraffe is adorable."

Milestone Reading Skills • Fact vs Opinion Complete Unit Page 1

Pre-assessment, Form A

**MILESTONE READING SKILLS • FACT VS OPINION**  
**LESSON 2: PART B Prove It!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Write F or O. For a fact, tick a way to check it. For an opinion, circle the clue word in the sentence.

| Sentence                                                      | F or O                                                | If it is a fact, how could you check it?                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 The Moon travels around Earth.                              | <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> O | <input type="checkbox"/> look it up<br><input type="checkbox"/> measure or count<br><input type="checkbox"/> observe |
| 2 Every week has seven days.                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> O | <input type="checkbox"/> look it up<br><input type="checkbox"/> measure or count<br><input type="checkbox"/> observe |
| 3 A full moon is the most beautiful sight in the night sky.   | <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> O | <input type="checkbox"/> look it up<br><input type="checkbox"/> measure or count<br><input type="checkbox"/> observe |
| 4 A new pencil is about 7 inches long.                        | <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> O | <input type="checkbox"/> look it up<br><input type="checkbox"/> measure or count<br><input type="checkbox"/> observe |
| 5 Rain falls from clouds.                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> O | <input type="checkbox"/> look it up<br><input type="checkbox"/> measure or count<br><input type="checkbox"/> observe |
| 6 Science is the best subject.                                | <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> O | <input type="checkbox"/> look it up<br><input type="checkbox"/> measure or count<br><input type="checkbox"/> observe |
| 7 Twelve astronauts walked on the Moon between 1969 and 1972. | <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> O | <input type="checkbox"/> look it up<br><input type="checkbox"/> measure or count<br><input type="checkbox"/> observe |
| 8 Snow days are more fun than rain days.                      | <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> O | <input type="checkbox"/> look it up<br><input type="checkbox"/> measure or count<br><input type="checkbox"/> observe |

Milestone Reading Skills • Fact vs Opinion Complete Unit Page 16

Lesson 2: Prove It! chart

**MILESTONE READING SKILLS • FACT VS OPINION**  
**LESSON 3: YOU DO! Tricky sentences**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Ask: what tool could measure it? A ruler, a scale, a stopwatch or a book can check a fact. No tool can measure best.

**PART A: TALLEST OR BEST? CIRCLE FACT OR OPINION.**

- 1 "Of all the animals on Earth, the blue whale is the largest."  
Circle one: **FACT** **OPINION**
- 2 "The blue whale is the most beautiful animal in the ocean."  
Circle one: **FACT** **OPINION**
- 3 "Of all the mountains on Earth, Mount Everest is the highest."  
Circle one: **FACT** **OPINION**
- 4 "Mount Everest is the most exciting mountain to climb."  
Circle one: **FACT** **OPINION**

**PART B: ONE SENTENCE, TWO PARTS. UNDERLINE THE FACT PART. CIRCLE THE CLUE WORD.**

- 1 "Chickpeas have three hearts, which is the coolest thing about them."  
Clue word: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 "Bee make honey, which is the most delicious food on Earth."  
Clue word: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 "Penguins cannot fly, but they are the coolest birds of the zoo."  
Clue word: \_\_\_\_\_

Milestone Reading Skills • Fact vs Opinion Complete Unit Page 20

Lesson 3: tricky sentences

**MILESTONE READING SKILLS • FACT VS OPINION**  
**LESSON 4: YOU DO! Opinion and support**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Use the letter. Write the author's opinion at the top. Then write each reason and one fact from the text that supports it.

**The author's opinion (paragraph 1)**

Reason (in your own words) A fact from the text that supports it

- 1
- 2
- 3

One sentence in paragraph 4 sounds like a reason, but it is an opinion. Copy it and circle the clue word.

Milestone Reading Skills • Fact vs Opinion Complete Unit Page 24

Lesson 4: organizer

**MILESTONE READING SKILLS • FACT VS OPINION**  
**LESSON 5: SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW Hummingbirds**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the passages. The sentences are numbered. Then answer the Show What You Know questions.

**Hummingbirds**

▲ **FACT:** 286 words

- 1 Hummingbirds can hover in the air and stay in one spot while they feed. 2 By twisting their wings, they can fly up, down, sideways, and even backward. 3 When they fly straight ahead, their wings can beat about 70 times each second. 4 There are more than 300 kinds of hummingbirds, and every one of them lives in North or South America.
- 5 In flight, a hummingbird's heart can beat more than 1,000 times a minute. 6 Its wings beat so quickly that they make a soft humming sound. 7 That sound is how the bird got its name. 8 That gentle hum is the most delightful sound in summer garden.
- 9 Because its body uses energy so quickly, a hummingbird must feed many times a day. 10 At night, it can close its heart beat and cool its body to save energy. 11 The female builds the nest and raises the chicks by herself. 12 Her nest starts out about the size of a walnut. 13 Her eggs are about as tiny as peas.
- 14 Hummingbirds drink nectar from flowers, and they also catch small insects to eat. 15 A hummingbird likes up nectar with a long tongue that is split at the tip. 16 The smallest bird in the world, the bee hummingbird, lives only in Cuba. 17 Each fall, many ruby-throated hummingbirds fly across the Gulf of Mexico without stopping.
- 18 In my opinion, they are the most beautiful birds on Earth. 19 A garden without hummingbirds would feel empty. 20 Bird experts say that sugar-water feeders should be cleaned every few days. 21 Every family should plant red flowers to welcome these tiny birds.

Milestone Reading Skills • Fact vs Opinion Complete Unit Page 28

Lesson 5: Level C passage

**MILESTONE READING SKILLS • FACT VS OPINION**  
**REVIEW: TASK CARDS Fact or opinion?**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cut apart the cards. Read each card and decide fact or opinion? Circle your answer on the recording sheet and write why.

|                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 <b>TASK CARD</b><br>Fact or opinion? How do you know?<br>"A group of lions is called a pride."<br>Ask: can it be checked?              | 2 <b>TASK CARD</b><br>Fact or opinion? How do you know?<br>"Soccer is the best sport."<br>Ask: can it be checked?                         |
| 3 <b>TASK CARD</b><br>Fact or opinion? How do you know?<br>"A shark can smell much better than a person can."<br>Ask: can it be checked? | 4 <b>TASK CARD</b><br>Fact or opinion? How do you know?<br>"Smokes are scary."<br>Ask: can it be checked?                                 |
| 5 <b>TASK CARD</b><br>Fact or opinion? How do you know?<br>"Most frogs lay their eggs in water."<br>Ask: can it be checked?              | 6 <b>TASK CARD</b><br>Fact or opinion? How do you know?<br>"Rainbows are the most beautiful thing in the sky."<br>Ask: can it be checked? |
| 7 <b>TASK CARD</b><br>Fact or opinion? How do you know?<br>"A grass is a group of 144 things."<br>Ask: can it be checked?                | 8 <b>TASK CARD</b><br>Fact or opinion? How do you know?<br>"Everyone should have a pet."<br>Ask: can it be checked?                       |

Milestone Reading Skills • Fact vs Opinion Complete Unit Page 31

24 task cards

## WHAT THE FULL UNIT ADDS TO THIS LESSON

- 4 more lessons in gradual release: three ways to check a fact, tricky sentences (tallest or best?), authors who mix facts and opinions, and a show-what-you-know finale
- 6 more original passages at three measured reading levels (150 to 260 words), level and length printed; the finale puts one topic at all three levels
- Pre- and post-assessment in parallel forms (12 points each) with a class tracker
- 24 task cards with a recording sheet, including trap sentences where a clue word misleads
- 3 small-group reteach cards for the most common mix-ups, mapped to the test items
- An exit ticket for every lesson and an answer key for every page

Find the full unit on TpT:

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/x-17725207>

THANK YOU

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