Roots at Work

Use word parts to infer meaning.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.4b "Use common, grade-appropriate Greek and Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., telegraph, photograph, autograph)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that contain a Greek or Latin root whose meaning is explained nearby. Circle the root in each underlined word to show how it helps you infer the word's meaning.

Water on the Move

1. Long ago, engineers built aqueducts to bring water into some cities. The Latin root aqua means "water," and duct means "lead." An aqueduct is a structure that leads water from one place to another. Some aqueducts carried water across valleys on tall stone arches. Others ran underground, where the water stayed cleaner and cooler during summer months.

2. Today, a water worker may use a portable testing kit beside a stream. The Latin root port means "carry," so portable describes something that can be carried. A worker can transport the kit from site to site. In transport, trans means "across," and port still means "carry." Tests help workers notice dirty water before it reaches homes.

3. Water systems also support aquatic animals, such as fish and frogs. Because aqua means "water," aquatic means "related to water." A biologist may inspect a pipe for cracks. The Greek root bio means "life," and the Latin root spect means "look." By understanding these roots, readers can make a sensible guess when they meet an unfamiliar word.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Using the root aqua, what would you expect to find in an aquarium?

2. Using trans and port as clues, what does transportation most likely mean?

3. Based on the root spect, what does a spectator most likely do?

4. Based on the root bio, what does biology most likely study?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences. In the first sentence, use a word not in the passage that contains aqua, port, spect, or bio. In the second sentence, explain how the root helps you infer the word's meaning.

ANSWER KEY

Roots at Work

GRADE 4 · L.4.4b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words that contain a Greek or Latin root whose meaning is explained nearby. Circle the root in each underlined word to show how it helps you infer the word's meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Using the root aqua, what would you expect to find in an aquarium?	**Water, and likely water animals or plants.**
2	Using trans and port as clues, what does transportation most likely mean?	**The carrying or moving of something across or from one place to another.**
3	Based on the root spect, what does a spectator most likely do?	**A spectator watches or looks at an event.**
4	Based on the root bio, what does biology most likely study?	**Biology studies life or living things.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I read a biography about Mae Jemison's life. I know biography is about a person's life because bio means life.

Accept answers that correctly connect each root to its meaning, even if students use different wording. For Part 3, accept any accurate new word containing one of the listed roots and a clear explanation of the root clue.