Shipwreck Word Detectives

Use roots and affixes to clarify an archaeology text.

ELA.7.V.1.2 "Apply knowledge of Greek and Latin roots and affixes to determine meanings of words and phrases in grade-level content."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle four words built from Greek or Latin roots or affixes, then number them 1 through 4. In the margin, write the meaning you infer for each word.

Clues Beneath the Sea

1. Researchers on a coastal archaeology team study a submerged shipwreck near the Greek island of Antikythera. The vessel sank more than 2,000 years ago, leaving statues, coins, and tools on the seafloor. Because the site is underwater, divers work carefully to protect fragile artifacts. They record each object's location before moving it. This method helps scientists reconstruct how the ship was loaded and where its crew may have traveled across the Mediterranean Sea long ago.

2. To examine the wreck without disturbing it, the team uses a remotely operated vehicle, or ROV. Its cameras send images to a boat at the surface. The ROV can reach narrow spaces that may be unsafe for divers. It also maps the site with sonar, a tool that uses sound waves to locate objects. Digital images are stored in a database, where researchers can compare details from many photographs. This noninvasive approach keeps the artifacts in their original setting.

3. After studying the images, experts may create a three-dimensional model of the shipwreck. The model shows height, width, and depth, giving viewers a fuller sense of the site. Such models allow people in distant museums to inspect the wreck without removing its contents. Historians then compare the cargo with records from other ports. Evidence from the wreck can reveal trade routes, but it cannot identify every person who sailed on the ship. Careful conclusions depend on evidence, not guesses.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. The prefix sub- means “under.” What does submerged mean in paragraph 1?

2. The prefix re- means “again,” and struct means “build.” What does reconstruct mean as it is used in paragraph 1?

3. The prefix non- means “not.” What does noninvasive tell you about the team's approach in paragraph 2?

4. The prefix tri- means “three.” What does three-dimensional mean in paragraph 3?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one word that is not in the passage and that contains a Greek or Latin root or affix. Write two sentences that name the word part, tell its meaning, and explain the meaning of the whole word.

ANSWER KEY

Shipwreck Word Detectives

GRADE 7 · ELA.7.V.1.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle four words built from Greek or Latin roots or affixes, then number them 1 through 4. In the margin, write the meaning you infer for each word. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	The prefix sub- means "under." What does submerged mean in paragraph 1?	**Under water.**
2	The prefix re- means "again," and struct means "build." What does reconstruct mean as it is used in paragraph 1?	**To build or piece together a picture of something again from evidence.**
3	The prefix non- means "not." What does noninvasive tell you about the team's approach in paragraph 2?	**The approach does not disturb the artifacts or their setting.**
4	The prefix tri- means "three." What does three-dimensional mean in paragraph 3?	**Having three dimensions: height, width, and depth.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I chose aquatic. The Latin root aqua means water, so aquatic means related to water.

Accept equivalent, context-supported definitions for the questions. For Part 3, accept any word not in the passage if the student correctly identifies a Greek or Latin root or affix and accurately explains the word in two sentences.