Beneath the Surface

Determine word meanings through Greek and Latin parts and context.

ELA.8.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 Underline six words that contain Greek or Latin roots or affixes. Circle the word part that helps you and write a brief meaning in the margin.

Mapping an Underwater Settlement

1. On a calm morning, marine archaeologist Leila Torres guided a submersible above the ruins of Pavlopetri, an ancient Greek settlement now beneath the sea. A sonar device sent sound waves toward the seafloor and recorded their return. Its image revealed rectangular foundations, narrow streets, and a possible courtyard. The team could not remove every object because the site is fragile. Instead, they documented each feature before choosing a careful excavation plan for future study by other researchers.

2. Torres studied a bronze tool whose surface showed oxidation. Oxidation can occur during a reaction when a substance combines with oxygen. The green coating did not prove that the tool was used for farming, but it showed that metal had reacted over many years. To avoid damaging the artifact, conservators placed it in a controlled container. They measured its condition regularly and photographed it from multiple angles, creating a record for later analysis by historians and scientists alike.

3. During the expedition, a technician used a noninvasive scanner to inspect a sealed jar. The scanner produced a digital model without opening the jar or disturbing what was inside. One model suggested that small seeds rested at the bottom, a clue to the settlement's food supply. The discovery was preliminary, meaning it came before a final conclusion. Researchers planned to compare the seeds with samples from nearby land sites and publish their findings in a peer-reviewed report after further testing.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Use the prefix sub- and the context. What is a submersible, and which detail supports your meaning?

2. The Greek root archae- means "ancient," and the ending -logist means "a person who studies." What do these parts tell you about an archaeologist?

3. The Greek roots photo, meaning "light," and graph, meaning "write or record," appear in photographed. What did the team do when it photographed the tool?

4. The Latin prefix pre- means "before." What does preliminary mean in paragraph 3, and what phrase supports your meaning?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences. In the first sentence, use and underline a science or history word that does not appear in the passage and that contains a Greek or Latin root or affix. In the second sentence, name one word part and explain how it helps show the word's meaning.

ANSWER KEY

Beneath the Surface

GRADE 8 · ELA.8.V.1.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline six words that contain Greek or Latin roots or affixes. Circle the word part that helps you and write a brief meaning in the margin. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Use the prefix sub- and the context. What is a submersible, and which detail supports your meaning?	**A submersible is a vehicle or device that can operate underwater. It was guided above ruins that were beneath the sea.**
2	The Greek root archae- means "ancient," and the ending -logist means "a person who studies." What do these parts tell you about an archaeologist?	**An archaeologist is a person who studies ancient objects, places, and cultures.**
3	The Greek roots photo, meaning "light," and graph, meaning "write or record," appear in photographed. What did the team do when it photographed the tool?	**The team made recorded images of the tool, including images from multiple angles.**
4	The Latin prefix pre- means "before." What does preliminary mean in paragraph 3, and what phrase supports your meaning?	**Preliminary means early or not final. The supporting phrase is "before a final conclusion."**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The geologist mapped rock layers near the river. The Greek root geo means earth, so geologist means a scientist who studies Earth.

For the marking task, accept six accurately identified Greek or Latin roots or affixes with reasonable margin meanings, such as sub-, archae-, photo-, graph-, non-, or pre-. For the open task, accept any appropriate new content word, an accurate word-part explanation, and a logical first sentence.