

Dig Into Words

Use Greek and Latin word parts to uncover meaning.

ELA.9.V.1.2 “Apply knowledge of etymology and derivations to determine meanings of words and phrases in grade-level content.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each Greek or Latin word part named in the passage, circle its stated meaning, and number the six complete terms whose origins are explained.

A Site Beneath Rome

- ① At a construction site in Rome, archaeologists paused work when workers uncovered a stone floor. The word archaeology joins the Greek word archaios, meaning ancient, to logia, meaning study. Its origin fits the field: archaeologists investigate people and objects from long ago. The team first examined the floor without moving it. They found an artifact, a human-made object. Artifact comes from Latin words meaning “made by skill.” That history separates an artifact from a natural rock, even when both have rested in the same soil for centuries.
- ② To learn where the floor belonged in time, the team studied the soil above and below it. This work is called stratigraphy. The base stratum is Latin for a layer spread out, and the ending graphy comes from a Greek word for writing or describing. Stratigraphy therefore records and compares layers. A lower layer is often older than one above it, but archaeologists also test that idea with evidence. The team entered a subterranean room. Latin sub means beneath, and terra means earth, so the word fits a room below ground.
- ③ Later, researchers built a chronology, or ordered account of events, for the site. Chronology combines the Greek chronos, meaning time, with logia, meaning study. Their report described an excavation, the careful removal of earth to uncover evidence. Excavation developed from Latin parts meaning “out” and “hollow,” which suggests taking material out of a dug space. By tracing these derivations, readers can make careful first guesses about unfamiliar academic terms. Word origins do not replace evidence or context, but they can point toward a meaning before a reader checks a dictionary.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Use the meanings of archaios and logia to explain what archaeology means.

2 How does the Latin origin of artifact help you tell an artifact from a natural rock?

3 What does subterranean mean? Use the meanings of sub and terra in your answer.

4 How do the Latin meanings "out" and "hollow" help explain the meaning of excavation?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write two sentences about stratigraphy. In the first sentence, use stratigraphy correctly in a new archaeology situation. In the second sentence, explain how stratum and graphy help you determine its meaning.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each Greek or Latin word part named in the passage, circle its stated meaning, and number the six complete terms whose origins are explained. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Use the meanings of archaios and logia to explain what archaeology means.	Archaeology means the study of ancient people and objects, or the study of ancient things.
2	How does the Latin origin of artifact help you tell an artifact from a natural rock?	Artifact means “made by skill,” so it is a human-made object rather than a natural rock.
3	What does subterranean mean? Use the meanings of sub and terra in your answer.	Subterranean means beneath the earth, or below ground.
4	How do the Latin meanings “out” and “hollow” help explain the meaning of excavation?	They suggest removing material out of a hollow or dug space, which is an excavation.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The archaeologist used stratigraphy to describe and compare the soil layers around a buried wall. Because stratum means a layer and graphy means writing or describing, stratigraphy is a record or study of layers.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately connect the stated Greek or Latin parts to each complete word. For the open response, accept a new, sensible archaeology context and an explanation that connects stratum to layers and graphy to writing or describing.