Root Clue Check

Use Greek and Latin word parts to test a proposed meaning.

11.L.V.2.a "Deconstruct unknown words or phrases using etymology knowledge, common Greek and Latin roots, root words, and/or affixes to determine meaning as used in grade-level texts. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

MEANING FITS THE PARTS

The proposed meaning agrees with the word's prefix, root, and suffix. Use the parts as evidence.

postwar: occurring after a war, because post- means after.

MEANING CONFLICTS WITH THE PARTS

The proposed meaning clashes with clues from the word's parts. Do not let one familiar-looking piece mislead you.

The claim that amoral means strongly moral does not fit, because a- means not or without.

1 SORT

8 items

For each word and proposed meaning, circle MATCHES or MISMATCHES, then choose two items and name the word parts that support your choices.

1. subaquatic: occurring under water — MATCHES / MISMATCHES

2. magnanimous: having a petty spirit — MATCHES / MISMATCHES

3. geothermal: produced by heat from Earth's interior — MATCHES / MISMATCHES

4. transcontinental: extending across a continent — MATCHES / MISMATCHES

5. misanthrope: a person who loves humankind — MATCHES / MISMATCHES

6. bibliophile: a person who loves books — MATCHES / MISMATCHES

7. exonerate: to place blame on someone — MATCHES / MISMATCHES

8. irreversible: unable to be turned back — MATCHES / MISMATCHES

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new word and proposed meaning that MATCHES its word parts, and one new word and proposed meaning that MISMATCHES its word parts.

MATCHES _____

MISMATCHES _____

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence using a new word with at least two meaningful parts, then explain how both parts help you infer the word's meaning.

ANSWER KEY # Root Clue Check

GRADE 11 · 11.L.V.2.a

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	subaquatic: occurring under water	**MATCHES**	sub- means under, and aqua means water.
2	magnanimous: having a petty spirit	**MISMATCHES**	magn- means great, and anim means spirit or soul, so the word suggests greatness of spirit.
3	geothermal: produced by heat from Earth's interior	**MATCHES**	geo means earth, and therm means heat.
4	transcontinental: extending across a continent	**MATCHES**	trans- means across, and continental refers to a continent.
5	misanthrope: a person who loves humankind	**MISMATCHES**	mis- or miso means hate, and anthrop means human.
6	bibliophile: a person who loves books	**MATCHES**	biblio means book, and -phile means lover.
7	exonerate: to place blame on someone	**MISMATCHES**	ex- means out of or away from, and exonerate means to free from blame.
8	irreversible: unable to be turned back	**MATCHES**	ir- means not, re- means back, and vers means turn.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **MATCHES**: interstellar: between stars.
- **MISMATCHES**: The claim that monologue means a conversation between two people.

Challenge: The biographer traced the scientist's life from childhood to retirement. Bio means life, and graph means write, so biographer means a person who writes about another person's life.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Accept accurate explanations that cite relevant Greek or Latin parts, including related forms such as terra and terrestrial. In Part 2, students should identify the relevant parts and connect them to the proposed meaning.