Root Source Sort

Sort words by the language of their key roots.

12.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 _____

GREEK-ROOTED

The main meaning-bearing roots come from Greek. Split the word into parts and connect the Greek parts to its meaning.

philanthropy: phil (love) + anthropos (people) points to concern for people.

LATIN-ROOTED

The main meaning-bearing roots come from Latin. Split the word into parts and connect the Latin parts to its meaning.

transport: trans (across) + port (carry) points to carrying across.

1 SORT

8 items

For each word, circle GREEK or LATIN by tracing its main roots, then in Part 2 choose two items and explain which roots or affixes helped you decide and what they mean.

1. The biographer examined the leader's private letters. GREEK LATIN

2. The scientist monitored geothermal activity near the volcano. GREEK LATIN

3. The treaty was declared intractable after negotiations failed. GREEK LATIN

4. The archivist kept a chronological record of each event. GREEK LATIN

5. Her benevolent gift funded the clinic. GREEK LATIN

6. The hikers entered a subterranean passage. GREEK LATIN

7. The physician used a thermometer to check the patient's temperature. GREEK LATIN

8. A seismograph recorded the earthquake's vibrations. GREEK LATIN

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 Greek-rooted word and one new Latin-rooted word. Break each word into meaningful parts and state its meaning.

GREEK _____

LATIN _____

CHALLENGE

Find or create a hybrid word with one Greek meaning-bearing part and one Latin meaning-bearing part. Name the parts and explain the word's meaning.

ANSWER KEY # Root Source Sort

GRADE 12 · 12.L.V.2.a

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The biographer examined the leader's private letters.	**GREEK**	bio means life and graph means write, both Greek roots.
2	The scientist monitored geothermal activity near the volcano.	**GREEK**	geo means earth and therm means heat, both Greek roots.
3	The treaty was declared intractable after negotiations failed.	**LATIN**	in means not and tract means handle or draw, from Latin.
4	The archivist kept a chronological record of each event.	**GREEK**	chrono means time and log comes from Greek logos, meaning word, account, or study.
5	Her benevolent gift funded the clinic.	**LATIN**	bene means good and vol means wish, from Latin.
6	The hikers entered a subterranean passage.	**LATIN**	sub means under and terra means earth, from Latin.
7	The physician used a thermometer to check the patient's temperature.	**GREEK**	therm means heat and meter means measure, both Greek roots.
8	A seismograph recorded the earthquake's vibrations.	**GREEK**	seismo means earthquake or shaking and graph means record or write, both Greek roots.

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)

- **GREEK**: telescope = tele (far) + scope (look), an instrument used to see far away.
- **LATIN**: audible = aud (hear) + ible (able to), able to be heard.

Challenge: television combines Greek tele, meaning far, and Latin vision, meaning seeing, so it means seeing from far away.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Accept answers that identify the main roots and reasonably connect those roots to the word's meaning. Some English words use borrowed endings, so students should classify them by their main meaning-bearing roots.