

Root Detective Sort

Sort each word, then prove two choices using the roots.

5.L.V.2.a “Deconstruct words using knowledge of Greek and Latin roots, root words, and affixes to determine meaning. (I)”

NAME _____

DATE _____

GREEK ROOT

A Greek root gives the word's main idea. Greek roots are often used in science and school words.

thermometer has the Greek root therm, meaning heat.

LATIN ROOT

A Latin root gives the word's main idea. Latin roots are often used in action and everyday words.

aquatic has the Latin root aqua, meaning water.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Read each word and circle GREEK or LATIN based on the root that gives the word its main meaning.

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. biology | ☐ GREEK | ☐ LATIN |
| <hr/> | | |
| 2. autograph | ☐ GREEK | ☐ LATIN |
| <hr/> | | |
| 3. inspect | ☐ GREEK | ☐ LATIN |
| <hr/> | | |
| 4. microscope | ☐ GREEK | ☐ LATIN |
| <hr/> | | |
| 5. transport | ☐ GREEK | ☐ LATIN |
| <hr/> | | |
| 6. audible | ☐ GREEK | ☐ LATIN |
| <hr/> | | |
| 7. construct | ☐ GREEK | ☐ LATIN |
| <hr/> | | |
| 8. telescope | ☐ GREEK | ☐ LATIN |
| <hr/> | | |

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 with a Greek root and one new word with a Latin root. For each word, name the root and tell what it means.

GREEK _____

LATIN _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that uses one word with a Greek root and one word with a Latin root. Then name each root and tell what it means.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	biology	GREEK	bio is a Greek root meaning life, and logy relates to study.
2	autograph	GREEK	auto is a Greek root meaning self, and graph means write.
3	inspect	LATIN	spect is a Latin root meaning look.
4	microscope	GREEK	micro is a Greek root meaning small, and scope means look.
5	transport	LATIN	port is a Latin root meaning carry.
6	audible	LATIN	aud is a Latin root meaning hear.
7	construct	LATIN	struct is a Latin root meaning build.
8	telescope	GREEK	tele is a Greek root meaning far, and scope means look.

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:** geography, geo means earth.
- **LATIN:** retract, tract means pull.

Challenge: Sentence: The geologist used a portable tool. Roots: geo means earth, and port means carry.

For Part 2, accept any two correctly sorted words when the student identifies a correct root and its meaning. Accept reasonable student-created words if the root origin and meaning are correct.