Suffix Signal Sort

Use suffixes to find each word's meaning.

5.L.V.2.c "Construct words using knowledge of Greek and Latin roots, root words, and affixes. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

MEANS FULL OF

Words ending in -ful mean full of the root word.

Colorful means full of color.

MEANS WITHOUT

Words ending in -less mean without the root word.

Endless means without an end.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle FULL OF or WITHOUT for each word, then choose two words and explain how the suffix helped you sort them.

1.	hopeful	FULL OF	WITHOUT
2.	harmless	FULL OF	WITHOUT
3.	thankful	FULL OF	WITHOUT
4.	playful	FULL OF	WITHOUT
5.	fearless	FULL OF	WITHOUT
6.	careless	FULL OF	WITHOUT
7.	joyful	FULL OF	WITHOUT
8.	powerless	FULL OF	WITHOUT

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 ending in -ful and one new word ending in -less.

FULL OF _____

WITHOUT _____

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence using a new -ful word and a new -less word, then tell what each suffix means.

ANSWER KEY

Suffix Signal Sort

GRADE 5 · 5.L.V.2.c

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	hopeful	**FULL OF**	hope + -ful means full of hope.
2	harmless	**WITHOUT**	harm + -less means without harm.
3	thankful	**FULL OF**	thank + -ful means full of thanks.
4	playful	**FULL OF**	play + -ful means full of play.
5	fearless	**WITHOUT**	fear + -less means without fear.
6	careless	**WITHOUT**	care + -less means without care.
7	joyful	**FULL OF**	joy + -ful means full of joy.
8	powerless	**WITHOUT**	power + -less means without power.

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)

- **FULL OF**: helpful
- **WITHOUT**: penniless

Challenge: The thoughtful nurse comforted the restless child. The suffix -ful means full of, and the suffix -less means without.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify -ful as meaning full of and -less as meaning without. Part 3 answers may vary if each word uses the correct suffix and has a sensible meaning.