Word Part Detectives

Find the clue that unlocks each word.

6.L.V.2.a "Deconstruct words using etymology knowledge, Greek and Latin roots, root words, and/or affixes to determine or clarify meaning in grade-level texts. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

PREFIX CLUE

A prefix is at the beginning of a word. It changes the meaning of the word that follows it.

nonfiction: non- means not, so nonfiction is writing about real facts.

ROOT CLUE

A Greek or Latin root carries a word's main meaning. Knowing the root can help you understand the whole word.

autograph: graph means write, so an autograph is a person's written name.

1 SORT

8 items

For each word and clue, circle PREFIX or ROOT, then choose two items and explain which word part helped you sort each one.

1. misplace, mis- means wrongly — PREFIX / ROOT

2. preheat, pre- means before — PREFIX / ROOT

3. geology, geo means earth — PREFIX / ROOT

4. disconnect, dis- means apart — PREFIX / ROOT

5. audience, aud means hear — PREFIX / ROOT

6. biology, bio means life — PREFIX / ROOT

7. rewrite, re- means again — PREFIX / ROOT

8. submarine, sub- means under — PREFIX / ROOT

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 word with a prefix clue and one word with a Greek or Latin root clue. For each word, name the word part and tell what it means.

PREFIX _____

ROOT _____

CHALLENGE

Choose a word with both a prefix and a Greek or Latin root. Name both parts and use them to explain the word's meaning.

ANSWER KEY

Word Part Detectives

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	misplace, mis- means wrongly	**PREFIX**	mis- is a prefix meaning wrongly.
2	preheat, pre- means before	**PREFIX**	pre- is a prefix meaning before.
3	geology, geo means earth	**ROOT**	geo is a Greek root meaning earth.
4	disconnect, dis- means apart	**PREFIX**	dis- is a prefix meaning apart or away.
5	audience, aud means hear	**ROOT**	aud is a Latin root meaning hear.
6	biology, bio means life	**ROOT**	bio is a Greek root meaning life.
7	rewrite, re- means again	**PREFIX**	re- is a prefix meaning again.
8	submarine, sub- means under	**PREFIX**	sub- is a prefix meaning under.

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)

- **PREFIX**: replay: re- means again, so replay means play again.
- **ROOT**: aquarium: aqua means water, so an aquarium is a place where water animals or plants live.

Challenge: In transportation, trans- means across and port means carry. Transportation means moving people or goods from one place to another.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Accept Part 2 and Part 3 responses when the named word part and meaning are accurate.