

Root Source Sleuths

PROVE IT: Pick two sorted words and explain the root clue that led to each choice.

8.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 _____

GREEK ROOT

A Greek root comes from Greek. Its meaning can help you unlock a word, such as geo, meaning earth, in geology.

geology

LATIN ROOT

A Latin root comes from Latin. Its meaning can help you unlock a word, such as aqua, meaning water, in aquatic.

aquatic

1 SORT

8 items

Read each word, use its root or roots, and circle GREEK or LATIN to show the source of the root clue.

1. biology

GREEK

LATIN

2. telescope

GREEK

LATIN

3. transport

GREEK

LATIN

4. chronology

GREEK

LATIN

5. inspect

GREEK

LATIN

6. manuscript

GREEK

LATIN

7. democracy

GREEK

LATIN

8. thermostat

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

GREEK _____

LATIN _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence using one Greek-root word and one Latin-root word. Put brackets around one root in each word, then tell what each root means.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	biology	GREEK	bio means life and logy means study, both from Greek.
2	telescope	GREEK	tele means far and scope means look, both from Greek.
3	transport	LATIN	trans means across and port means carry, both from Latin.
4	chronology	GREEK	chron means time, from Greek.
5	inspect	LATIN	spec means look, from Latin.
6	manuscript	LATIN	manus means hand and script means write, both from Latin.
7	democracy	GREEK	dem means people and cracy means rule or power, from Greek.
8	thermostat	GREEK	therm means heat, from Greek.

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:** photograph, photo means light.
- **LATIN:** portable, port means carry.

Challenge: The [geo]graphy class used an [aud]ible recording of waves. geo means earth, and aud means hear.

For PROVE IT, accept any two correctly sorted words when the student identifies a Greek or Latin root and connects it to the word's meaning. Some English words traveled through other languages, but classify each item by the source of its listed root.