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.

ANSWER KEY # Root Source Sleuths

GRADE 8 · 8.L.V.2.a

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.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. 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.