Root Clue Sort

Use roots to uncover word meanings.

L.7.4.b "Use common, grade-appropriate Greek and Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., belligerent, bellicose, rebel)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

LIFE CLUE

The Greek root bio means life. Look for it in words connected to living things.

Biology is the study of living things.

CARRY CLUE

The Latin root port means carry. Look for it in words about carrying, moving, or holding something.

Support means to hold something up.

1 SORT

8 items

For each word, circle LIFE or CARRY, then choose two words and explain how their roots helped you understand their meanings.

1. portable — LIFE / CARRY
2. transport — LIFE / CARRY
3. biography — LIFE / CARRY
4. import — LIFE / CARRY
5. biotic — LIFE / CARRY
6. biosphere — LIFE / CARRY
7. export — LIFE / CARRY
8. porter — LIFE / CARRY

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 bio and one new word with port that are not listed above, and explain how each root helps you understand the word.

LIFE _____

CARRY _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one word from the sort and explain how its root and one other word part work together to suggest its meaning.

ANSWER KEY

Root Clue Sort

GRADE 7 · L.7.4.b

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	portable	**CARRY**	Something portable is easy to carry.
2	transport	**CARRY**	To transport something is to carry or move it from one place to another.
3	biography	**LIFE**	A biography tells the story of a person's life.
4	import	**CARRY**	To import goods is to bring them into a country.
5	biotic	**LIFE**	Biotic means relating to living things.
6	biosphere	**LIFE**	The biosphere is the part of Earth where life exists.
7	export	**CARRY**	To export goods is to send them out of a country.
8	porter	**CARRY**	A porter is a person who carries luggage or other items.

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)

- **LIFE**: Biohazard means a danger from germs or other biological materials. Bio points to living things.
- **CARRY**: Portage means carrying a boat or supplies over land. Port means carry.

Challenge: In transport, trans means across and port means carry, so transport means to carry something from one place to another.

For Part 2, accept explanations that connect bio to life or port to carry and apply that clue to each chosen word. For Part 3, accept other accurate words with the requested roots and explanations.