Root Word Detectives

Use roots to unlock word meanings.

3.LF.15.d "Identify common Latin and Greek roots and use them to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words."

NAME _____ DATE _____

FAR ROOT

The Greek root **tele** means far. In *telephone*, it helps explain how you can talk to someone far away.

telephone

LIFE ROOT

The Greek root **bio** means life. A *biography* tells the story of a person's life.

biography

1 SORT

8 items

For each word, circle FAR or LIFE, and use the root to help you understand what the word means.

1. telecast: a show sent to viewers far away — FAR LIFE

2. biology: the study of living things — FAR LIFE

3. biosphere: the parts of Earth where life exists — FAR LIFE

4. telescope: a tool for seeing distant objects — FAR LIFE

5. telegraph: a device that sends messages over long distances — FAR LIFE

6. biofuel: fuel made from plants or other living things — FAR LIFE

7. telework: work done away from the workplace using a computer — FAR LIFE

8. biologist: a scientist who studies living things — FAR LIFE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one word from each group and explain how its root helps you know what the word means.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new word with tele and one new word with bio, and tell what each means.

FAR _____

LIFE _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one word you wrote in Part 3 and use it in a sentence that helps a reader understand its meaning.

ANSWER KEY # Root Word Detectives

GRADE 3 · 3.LF.15.d

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	telecast: a show sent to viewers far away	**FAR**	Tele means far, and a telecast sends a show to distant viewers.
2	biology: the study of living things	**LIFE**	Bio means life, and biology is the study of living things.
3	biosphere: the parts of Earth where life exists	**LIFE**	Bio means life, and the biosphere includes the places on Earth where life exists.
4	telescope: a tool for seeing distant objects	**FAR**	Tele means far, and a telescope helps people see distant objects.
5	telegraph: a device that sends messages over long distances	**FAR**	Tele means far, and a telegraph sends messages across distances.
6	biofuel: fuel made from plants or other living things	**LIFE**	Bio means life, and biofuel is made from living things.
7	telework: work done away from the workplace using a computer	**FAR**	Tele means far, and telework is done away from the workplace.
8	biologist: a scientist who studies living things	**LIFE**	Bio means life, and a biologist studies living things.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one word from each group and explain how its root helps you know what the word means. Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **FAR**: Television: pictures and sound sent from another place.
- **LIFE**: Biodiversity: many different kinds of living things in one place.

Challenge: The rainforest has high biodiversity because many kinds of plants and animals live there.

For Part 2, a student might explain that telecast has tele, meaning far, because a show is sent to distant viewers. They might explain that biofuel has bio, meaning life, because it is made from plants or other living things.