Word Part Detectives

Use word parts to test meanings.

5.4.R.3 "Students will use word parts (e.g., affixes, Latin roots, stems) to define and determine the meaning of new words."

NAME _____ DATE _____

MEANING MATCHES

The meaning agrees with a word part. Use these clues: tele means far, bio means life, geo means Earth, micro means small, and scrib means write.

portable: able to be carried (port means carry)

MEANING CLASHES

The meaning disagrees with a word part. Look for the part that shows why it cannot be right.

audible: impossible to hear (aud means hear)

1 SORT

8 items

For each word and meaning, circle MATCH or CLASH.

1. telescope: a tool for seeing faraway objects — MATCH / CLASH

2. biology: the study of things that have never lived — MATCH / CLASH

3. geography: the study of places on Earth — MATCH / CLASH

4. microscope: a tool for seeing very small things — MATCH / CLASH

5. scribble: to erase every word on a page — MATCH / CLASH

6. biography: a written account of a person's life — MATCH / CLASH

7. describe: to write or tell what something is like — MATCH / CLASH

8. geothermal: related to heat from the Moon, not Earth — MATCH / CLASH

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two numbered items and explain how a word part helped you sort each one.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new word and meaning that MATCH and one new word and meaning that CLASH.

MATCH _____

CLASH _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one CLASH item, write a meaning that fits the word, and name the word part that helped you.

ANSWER KEY # Word Part Detectives

GRADE 5 · 5.4.R.3

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	telescope: a tool for seeing faraway objects	**MATCH**	Tele means far, and a telescope lets people see faraway objects.
2	biology: the study of things that have never lived	**CLASH**	Bio means life, but the meaning says the things have never lived.
3	geography: the study of places on Earth	**MATCH**	Geo means Earth, and geography studies places on Earth.
4	microscope: a tool for seeing very small things	**MATCH**	Micro means small, and a microscope helps people see very small things.
5	scribble: to erase every word on a page	**CLASH**	Scrib means write, not erase.
6	biography: a written account of a person's life	**MATCH**	Bio means life, and a biography tells about someone's life.
7	describe: to write or tell what something is like	**MATCH**	Scrib means write, and a description can be written.
8	geothermal: related to heat from the Moon, not Earth	**CLASH**	Geo means Earth, but the meaning says the heat comes from the Moon instead.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Pick two numbered items and explain how a word part helped you sort each one.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **MATCH**: microchip: a very small piece of technology
- **CLASH**: biosphere: a place where no life exists

Challenge: Biology is the study of living things. Bio means life.

For Part 2, accept explanations that connect a word part to the stated meaning. For example, item 1 matches because tele means far, while item 2 clashes because bio means life.