Root Word Sort

Use roots to unlock word meanings.

4.RF.3.b "Recognize and use common Greek and Latin roots to determine word meanings and decode unfamiliar words."

NAME _____ DATE _____

MEANS THREE

The root tri means three. In tricolor, tri tells you that something has three colors.

tricolor

MEANS FOUR

The root quad means four. To quadruple something is to make it four times as much.

quadruple

1 SORT

8 items

Read each word and circle THREE or FOUR to show what its root means.

1.	1. tripod	THREE FOUR
2.	2. tricycle	THREE FOUR
3.	3. quadruped	THREE FOUR
4.	4. trilogy	THREE FOUR
5.	5. quadrilateral	THREE FOUR
6.	6. quadruplets	THREE FOUR
7.	7. trident	THREE FOUR
8.	8. triathlon	THREE FOUR

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

For Part 2, choose two sorted words and explain how their roots helped you decide. For Part 3, write one new word with tri and one new word with quad.

THREE _____

FOUR _____

CHALLENGE

Choose a sorted word and explain how its root and another part of the word work together to tell its meaning.

ANSWER KEY # Root Word Sort

GRADE 4 · 4.RF.3.b

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. tripod	**THREE**	Tri means three; a tripod has three legs.
2	2. tricycle	**THREE**	Tri means three; a tricycle has three wheels.
3	3. quadruped	**FOUR**	Quad means four; a quadruped is an animal with four feet.
4	4. trilogy	**THREE**	Tri means three; a trilogy is a series of three related works.
5	5. quadrilateral	**FOUR**	Quad means four; a quadrilateral has four sides.
6	6. quadruplets	**FOUR**	Quad means four; quadruplets are four children born at the same time.
7	7. trident	**THREE**	Tri means three; a trident is a spear with three points.
8	8. triathlon	**THREE**	Tri means three; a triathlon has three sports.

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)

- **THREE**: trio
- **FOUR**: quadrant

Challenge: A tripod has three legs: tri means three, and pod means foot.

For Part 2, each explanation should connect tri to three or quad to four and describe what the word means. For Part 3, accept other correctly used words containing these roots.