

Museum Word Detectives

Use clues, roots, and reference tools to unlock academic words.

6.2 "Developing and sustaining foundational language skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking--vocabulary. The student uses newly acquired vocabulary expressively..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each word that contains one of the listed roots, circle words or phrases that give meaning clues, and number the dictionary or glossary details that tell syllables, pronunciation, origin, or part of speech.

Records at the Harbor Museum

- ① At the Harbor Museum, sixth graders examined a nineteenth-century map. A note said that a vacant lot beside the dock became a public garden. The word vacant was explained by an example: no homes, shops, or people occupied the lot. Maya used a digital dictionary to check the entry. It gave the syllables va-cant, the pronunciation /VAY-kuhnt/, the part of speech adjective, and an origin in Latin vacare, "to be empty." This information showed why the lot was available for a garden.
- ② Near the map, a curator displayed a manuscript from an early harbor captain. A label defined a manuscript as a document written by hand, not printed by a machine. Students connected the Latin root man, meaning "hand," with scrib or script, meaning "write." The captain's careful script described ships, weather, and supplies. Because the document was made by hand, the root meanings supported the label's definition. In a print glossary, Maya also found that manuscript is a noun.
- ③ Before leaving, the class read a notice about the museum records. The town clerk must transmit, or send, digital copies to the state archive. A misfiled record is placed in the wrong file, so staff members check each label. The notice also said that the town's jurisdiction, its legal authority, covers the museum. The notice added that careful records benefit historians and visitors. These words use roots that carry meaning: mit means "send," mis means "wrong," jur or jus relates to law, and bene means "good."

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 What does vacant mean in the first paragraph? Which example in the paragraph helps you determine its meaning?

- 2 According to the digital dictionary entry, how is vacant syllabified, and what part of speech is it?

- 3 What does manuscript mean? Use the label and the meanings of man and script to explain your answer.

- 4 What does jurisdiction mean in the notice, and which root helps you determine that meaning?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose one word that uses one of these roots: bene, man, vac, scrib/script, mis/mit, or jur/jus. In exactly two sentences, report its syllabication, part of speech, and origin from a print or digital dictionary, then use it in a sentence with a context clue that explains it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each word that contains one of the listed roots, circle words or phrases that give meaning clues, and number the dictionary or glossary details that tell syllables, pronunciation, origin, or part of speech. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does vacant mean in the first paragraph? Which example in the paragraph helps you determine its meaning?	Vacant means empty or unoccupied. The lot had no homes, shops, or people occupying it.
2	According to the digital dictionary entry, how is vacant syllabified, and what part of speech is it?	It is syllabified va-cant, and it is an adjective.
3	What does manuscript mean? Use the label and the meanings of man and script to explain your answer.	A manuscript is a document written by hand.
4	What does jurisdiction mean in the notice, and which root helps you determine that meaning?	Jurisdiction means legal authority. The root jur or jus relates to law.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A digital dictionary lists beneficial as an adjective, syllabified ben-e-fi-cial, from Late Latin beneficialis, based on Latin bene, “well.” Installing shade trees is beneficial, or helpful, because they cool the playground.

Accept equivalent meanings when students support them with the passage’s context clues or root meanings. For the open response, accept any accurately sourced word and information, as long as it has exactly two sentences and includes a clear context clue.