

Roots Above Us

Use roots and context to unlock academic vocabulary.

8.2.C “determine the meaning and usage of grade-level academic English words derived from Greek and Latin roots such as ast, qui, path, mand/mend, and duc.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every word that uses ast, qui, path, mand/mend, or duc. Circle nearby words that help you infer each underlined word's meaning.

A Night of Sky Study

- ① During a school astronomy night, students watched the Moon cross in front of a bright star. The astronomy club leader explained that astronomers use careful observations, not guesses, to describe what they see. Before sunset, the group conducted an inquiry about which stars would be visible first. They checked a sky map, recorded the time, and compared their predictions with the darkening sky. Their method turned a brief viewing into useful evidence for later study.
- ② The next activity focused on light. Students traced the path of a flashlight beam through a cardboard tube and noted that the beam traveled in a straight path unless a mirror changed its direction. The club had a clear mandate: no one could look at the Sun without approved eclipse glasses. This rule was not meant to limit curiosity. It protected students' eyes while allowing them to conduct a safe investigation of the sky above.
- ③ After the event, students wrote a conclusion for the school newsletter. One team said it could deduce the identity of the first visible star by matching its position to the map. Another team recommended a second observation night because clouds had hidden part of the horizon. The editor asked each writer to use precise words, so readers could follow the evidence. Their report showed that academic vocabulary can name actions, rules, and ideas with accuracy.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** In paragraph 1, what does the root *ast* most likely mean in astronomy and astronomers? Give one detail from the passage that supports your answer.

- 2** What does inquiry mean in paragraph 1? Which actions by the students help you determine its meaning?

- 3** What do mandate and path mean in paragraph 2? Use the context of each word.

- 4** What does deduce mean in paragraph 3, and what does recommended mean? Use the context of each word.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write two sentences about a school investigation. Use at least three words from this list: astronomy, inquiry, path, mandate, conduct, deduce, recommend. Make each word's meaning clear through its context.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline every word that uses ast, qui, path, mand/mend, or duc. Circle nearby words that help you infer each underlined word's meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, what does the root ast most likely mean in astronomy and astronomers? Give one detail from the passage that supports your answer.	Ast means star. The students watched a bright star and used a sky map to study stars.
2	What does inquiry mean in paragraph 1? Which actions by the students help you determine its meaning?	Inquiry means a careful investigation or search for information. Students checked a sky map, recorded the time, and compared predictions.
3	What do mandate and path mean in paragraph 2? Use the context of each word.	Mandate means a required rule or official order. Path means the route or direction that something travels.
4	What does deduce mean in paragraph 3, and what does recommended mean? Use the context of each word.	Deduce means to reach a conclusion from evidence. Recommended means advised or suggested.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our science club conducted an inquiry to find why the garden path flooded after rain. From measurements of the sloping ground, we could deduce that water flowed toward the gate.

Accept accurate meanings supported by context, including close synonyms such as investigate for inquiry and conclude for deduce. For Part 3, accept any two sentences that use at least three listed words accurately and provide enough context to show each meaning.