

Name _____ Date _____ Per _____

ACTIVITY: Root Words and Biology

The study of biology requires an understanding of many technical terms. Sometimes you can find the meaning of an unfamiliar term by looking at its parts. In this activity you will analyze such parts to help you understand many of the terms you will encounter in biology.

Many words have prefixes and suffixes that provide clues to their meanings. The following table contains a list of prefixes and suffixes that are often part of biological terms. Look at the table and study it carefully.

PREFIX	Meaning	SUFFIX	Meaning
Hydro-	Related to water	-logy	Study of
Geno-	Race, offspring, sex	-phyll	Leaf
Bio-	Related to life	-plast	Organized living material
Proto-	First	-troph	Food, feeding
Chloro-	Green	-cellular	Having to do with cells
Zoo-	Related to animals	-phyte	Plant
Ex-, extra-	Out	-synthesis	To put together
In-, Intra-	Inside	-ation	Process
Micro-	Small	-scope	Instrument for viewing
Photo-	Light	-lysis	A releasing, loosening, or breaking
Uni-	One	-cretion	The process of separating
Multi-	Many	-gestion	To carry
Auto-	Self-operating	-meter	Instrument used to measure
Hom-, Homo-	Same	-stasis	A stationary condition
Hetero-	Different, other	-zygo	Joined
Telo-	An end, complete	-phase	Appearance
Meta-	A boundary, or turning point	-ectomy	Cut out
Pro-, proto-	Before, in front of	-pathy	Suffering, disease
Hypo-	Below	-tropism	Response
Hyper-	Above, more than	-cyte	Cell
Macro-	Large	-phage	Eat, eater
Eu-	Good, true	-karyo	Nucleus, nut
Osteo-	Bone	-spore	Seed
Glyco-	Sugar	-vasculo	Vessel (small)

(over)

Use the meanings of the prefixes and suffixes in the table to form words that will match these definitions:

WORD:

DEFINITION:

1) _____

the study of small forms of life (hint 3 words)

2) _____

the study of animals

3) _____

instrument used to measure water/moisture content

4) _____

a plant that grows in water

5) _____

small leaf

6) _____

within a cell

7) _____

small seed

8) _____

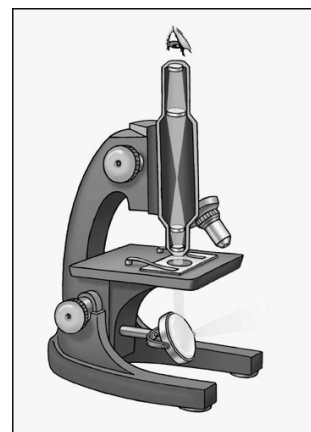
a response to light

9) _____

disease of the bones

10) _____

made up of one cell



Use the root words from the list to define the following terms:

WORD:

DEFINITION:

1) prokaryote: _____

2) osteocyte: _____

3) macrophage: _____

4) microscope: _____

5) eukaryote: _____

6) genealogy: _____

7) photosynthesis: _____

8) autotroph: _____

9) metaphase: _____

10) glycolysis: _____

11) tonsillectomy: _____

12) extracellular: _____