

Using Greek and Latin Roots

The terminology and naming systems utilized by biologists are anchored in Latin and Greek languages. Why is that?

- Long ago, the study of ancient Greek and Latin was a highly valued part of a formal education. Natural historians and other learned people commonly used Greek and Latin to communicate concepts and ideas, including the names of body parts, species, and groups of related species.
- Common names may vary across different regions of the world (e.g. mountain lion, puma, cougar) so using a scientific name (*Puma concolor*) avoids confusion between international scientists.
- Because these languages are dead (no longer used for everyday conversation) they remain useful for science because the meanings of Greek and Latin words are permanently fixed and universally understood. In a living language words can acquire new meanings over time (e.g. cool).

Use the reference sheet provided to determine the prefix and suffix of each of the following terms. Give the meaning of each part, and then a definition for the word as a whole.

1. dinosaur prefix _____: _____
 suffix _____: _____
 Definition: _____

2. antiseptic prefix _____: _____
 suffix _____: _____
 Definition: _____

3. pathologist prefix _____: _____
 suffix _____: _____
 Definition: _____

4. cardiology prefix _____: _____
 suffix _____: _____
 Definition: _____

5. pseudopod prefix _____: _____
 suffix _____: _____
 Definition: _____

6. arthritis prefix _____: _____
 suffix _____: _____
 Definition: _____

7. quadruped prefix _____: _____
 suffix _____: _____
 Definition: _____

8. pentadactyl prefix _____: _____
 suffix _____: _____
 Definition: _____

9. anemia prefix _____: _____
 suffix _____: _____
 Definition: _____

10. hydrophilic prefix _____: _____
 suffix _____: _____
 Definition: _____

11. erythrocyte prefix _____: _____
 suffix _____: _____
 Definition: _____

12. hypodermic prefix _____: _____
 suffix _____: _____
 Definition: _____

13. heterotroph prefix _____: _____
 suffix _____: _____
 Definition: _____

14. lactase prefix _____: _____
 suffix _____: _____
 Definition: _____

15. diarrhea prefix _____: _____
 suffix _____: _____
 Definition: _____

16. protozoa prefix _____: _____
 suffix _____: _____
 Definition: _____

17. pachyderm prefix _____: _____
 suffix _____: _____
 Definition: _____

18. hemorrhage prefix _____: _____
 suffix _____: _____
 Definition: _____
