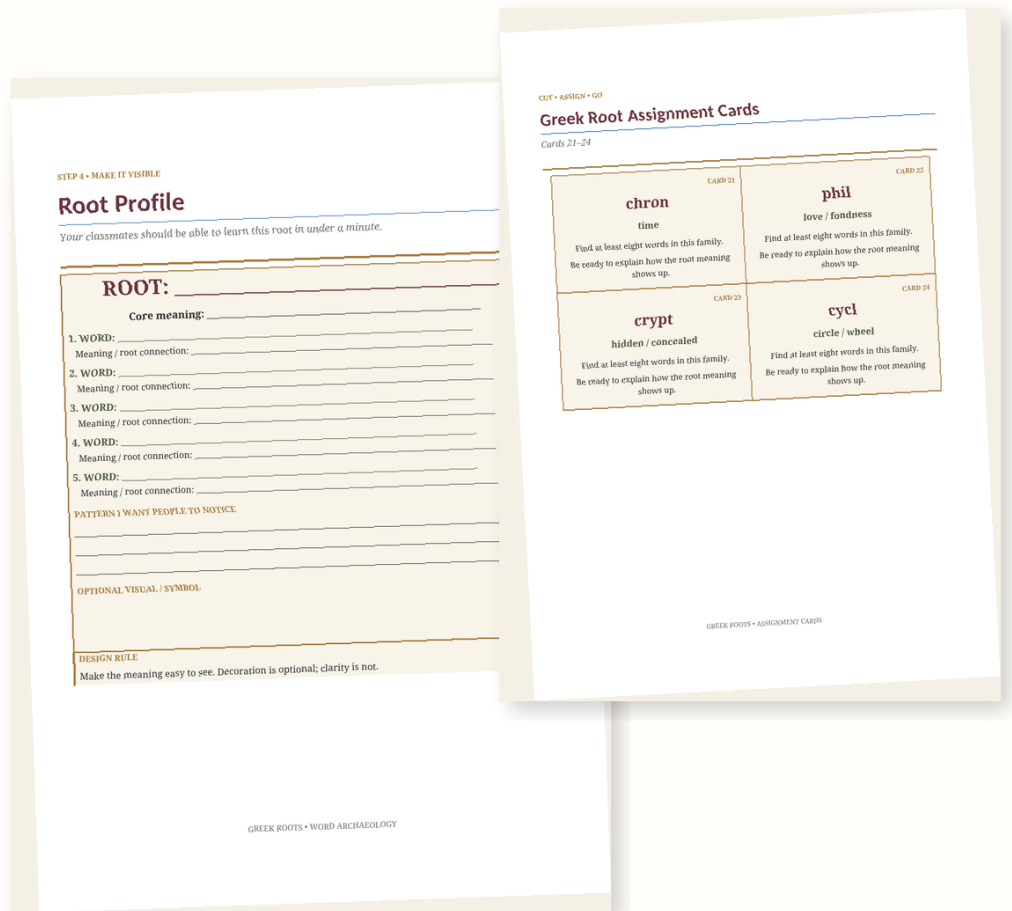


Greek Roots: Word Archaeology

A secondary ELA activity that moves students from root research to real word analysis.



WHAT STUDENTS DO

- Research one assigned Greek root
- Build and explain a word family
- Create a one-page Root Profile
- Learn from classmates in a gallery walk
- Apply roots to unfamiliar words

A clear path through the work

The packet is structured enough to guide students without turning word study into fill-in-the-blank memorization.

STEP 1 • START THE DIG

Your Root File

Start with the root itself before you start collecting words.

Name: _____

Date: _____

ASSIGNED ROOT

Root

Core meaning

BEFORE YOU LOOK ANYTHING UP

What words do you already know—or suspect—might contain this root?

What do you predict those words might have in common?

RESEARCH CHECK

USE MORE THAN A SEARCH RESULT

Check a reliable dictionary or reference source. You are looking for both the word's meaning and evidence that it actually belongs to your root family.

Source(s) you used:

GREEK ROOTS • WORD ARCHAEOLOGY

STEP 2 • BUILD THE WORD FAMILY

Evidence Log

Find examples that actually help you understand the root.

Record at least eight words. Aim for variety: familiar words, academic words, and at least one word that surprised you.

Word	Meaning	How the root shows up	Keep?

A WORD WORTH PAUSING ON

Which word gave you the clearest "I can see the root in this" moment? Explain.

GREEK ROOTS • WORD ARCHAEOLOGY

THE EMPHASIS

Students do more than list definitions. They look for patterns, explain how the root contributes to meaning, and decide which examples are most useful for teaching the family.

ROOT PROFILE + GALLERY WALK

Build it. Then teach it.

Each student becomes the class expert on one root.

STEP 4 • MAKE IT VISIBLE

Root Profile

Your classmates should be able to learn this root in under a minute.

ROOT: _____

Core meaning: _____

1. WORD: _____

Meaning / root connection: _____

2. WORD: _____

Meaning / root connection: _____

3. WORD: _____

Meaning / root connection: _____

4. WORD: _____

Meaning / root connection: _____

5. WORD: _____

Meaning / root connection: _____

PATTERN I WANT PEOPLE TO NOTICE

OPTIONAL VISUAL / SYMBOL

DESIGN RULE

Make the meaning easy to see. Decoration is optional; clarity is not.

GREEK ROOTS • WORD ARCHAEOLOGY

STEP 5 • READ THE ROOM

Gallery Walk

Collect roots from other people, not just finished posters.

Visit at least eight root profiles. Record the root, its meaning, one useful example, and a quick memory hook.

Root	Meaning	Example word	Memory hook

DON'T JUST COPY

Which two roots seem most useful for unlocking unfamiliar academic vocabulary? Why?

GREEK ROOTS • WORD ARCHAEOLOGY

WHY THIS WORKS

The Root Profile gives students a purpose for their research. The gallery walk turns individual work into a shared class word bank, and students record roots they can actually use later.

Can the root help?

The final page asks students to use roots as evidence—not as automatic definitions.

STEP 6 • TEST THE CLUE

Can the Root Help?

Use the root as evidence. Then check whether your reasoning actually works.

1. chronology

Root clue: chron = time Your best meaning guess: _____

What in the word helped you? _____

2. dermatology

Root clue: derm = skin Your best meaning guess: _____

What in the word helped you? _____

3. heliocentric

Root clue: helio = sun Your best meaning guess: _____

What in the word helped you? _____

4. monolith

Root clue: lith = stone Your best meaning guess: _____

What in the word helped you? _____

5. hydroelectric

Root clue: hydr = water Your best meaning guess: _____

What in the word helped you? _____

6. morphology

Root clue: morph = form / shape Your best meaning guess: _____

What in the word helped you? _____

FINAL THOUGHT

When is a root most useful—and when might you need more than the root to understand a word?

Context still matters. The root is a clue.

ASSIGNMENT CARDS

28 roots, ready to assign

Print the full set or choose the roots that fit your class.

CUT • ASSIGN • GO

Greek Root Assignment Cards

Cards 1–4

metr / meter measure Find at least eight words in this family. Be ready to explain how the root meaning shows up.	anthrop human Find at least eight words in this family. Be ready to explain how the root meaning shows up.
dem people Find at least eight words in this family. Be ready to explain how the root meaning shows up.	derm skin Find at least eight words in this family. Be ready to explain how the root meaning shows up.

GREEK ROOTS • ASSIGNMENT CARDS

CUT • ASSIGN • GO

Greek Root Assignment Cards

Cards 25–28

phot light Find at least eight words in this family. Be ready to explain how the root meaning shows up.	pyr fire Find at least eight words in this family. Be ready to explain how the root meaning shows up.
phon sound / voice Find at least eight words in this family. Be ready to explain how the root meaning shows up.	morph form / shape Find at least eight words in this family. Be ready to explain how the root meaning shows up.

GREEK ROOTS • ASSIGNMENT CARDS

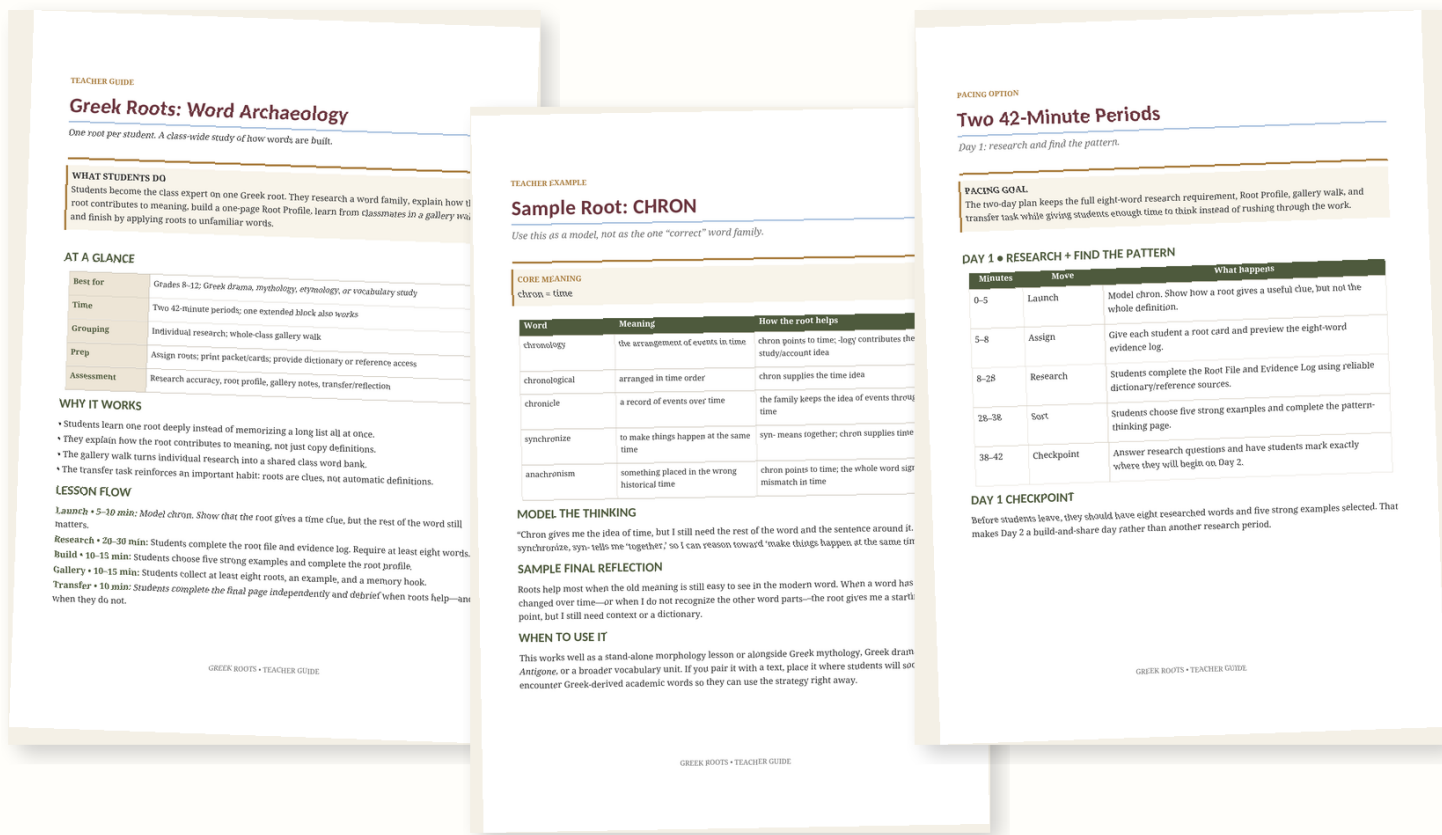
ROOTS INCLUDE

metr / meter • anthrop • dem • derm • soph • gen • hydr • tox • therm • geo • theo • hem / hemat • helio • lith • bio • neur • nau / naut • opt / ops • osteo • cosm • chron • phil • crypt • cycl • phot • pyr • phon • morph

TEACHER SUPPORT

A teacher guide you can actually use

Includes flexible pacing, a reference bank, a worked model, and practical grading guidance.



FLEXIBLE PACING

- Two 42-minute periods: research + pattern finding, then build + share + transfer
- One-block option for longer class periods
- Shortening notes when time is tight
- Teacher model using CHRON

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Everything in one low-prep set

Designed for high school vocabulary, morphology, mythology, Greek drama, or an Antigone unit.

7-page	student packet
28	Greek root assignment cards
7-page	teacher guide
2-day	42-minute pacing option
Editable	DOCX files
Print-ready	PDF files

GREEK ROOTS: WORD ARCHAEOLOGY

A purposeful alternative to memorizing a list of roots.

RESEARCH • BUILD • SHARE • TRANSFER