

Name: _____

Date: _____

Word Detective: Cracking the Code

The Building Blocks



A **Root** is the base part of a word that holds the main meaning. Many English words come from **ancient Greek** and **Latin**. If you know the root, you can unlock the meaning of dozens of new words!



Root: SPEC

Meaning: To look or see

When you see **spec** in a word, ask yourself: "Does this have to do with looking?"



Root: PORT

Meaning: To carry

When you see **port** in a word, think about moving or carrying something from one place to another.

Breaking Down Words

Use your knowledge of **SPEC** (look) and **PORT** (carry) to match these words to their correct definitions.

Word Bank: Inspection, Portable, Transport, Spectator, Import, Export

| Definition | Word |
|---|------|
| 1. The act of looking at something closely or officially. | |
| 2. Able to be easily carried or moved. | |
| 3. To carry people or goods from one place to another. | |
| 4. A person who watches or looks at a show, game, or event. | |
| 5. To carry goods <i>into</i> a country to be sold. | |
| 6. To carry goods <i>out of</i> a country to be sold. | |



Ellis Island Context

We are reading *Shutting Out the Sky*, a book about immigrants coming to America. Fill in the blanks below to see how these root words help tell their story.



Word bank: transport, inspection, portable, spectacles, spectators

The journey to America was long. The ship was our only mode of _____ across the ocean. When we finally arrived at Ellis Island, I was nervous.

We had to wait in long lines for a medical _____. The doctors looked closely at everyone to make sure they were healthy. I held tight to my small bag; it was the only _____ item I owned. Nearby, a man wiped his _____, or glasses, to see the Statue of Liberty better. We were no longer just _____, watching from afar—we were finally here.



Detective Quiz

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. If a 'porter' works at a hotel, what is their job likely to be?</p> | <p>a) To look at the guests as they arrive. b) To carry bags and luggage for guests. c) To cook food for the guests. d) To build the hotel furniture.</p> |
| <p>2. The word 'retrospective' combines 'retro' (back) and 'spec' (look). What does it mean?</p> | <p>a) Looking back at past events. b) Carrying something backwards. c) Looking forward to the future. d) Writing a history book.</p> |
| <p>3. Which word describes something that is 'looked at' because it is impressive or amazing?</p> | <p>a) Reporter b) Support c) Spectacle d) Passport</p> |