

# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Names hold a lot of information—if you can decipher the meaning behind them.

What can you learn from the names of these fantastic beasts?



The Thunderbird is a bird whose flapping wings can create storms.



A Demiguise is a beast that can disguise itself using invisibility when it wants to.

**WORD ROOTS: BREAK THE CODE:** The study of the origin of words is called etymology. Modern languages, including English, are filled with not-so-hidden meanings from older languages, such as Latin and Greek. These word roots below help form many common words.

**AERO** = air or wind

**AMBUL** = move

**AQU/A (HYDR/O)** = water

**CAP** = head

**CELER** = fast

**CHROM** = color

**CHRY** = gold, yellow

**CRYO** = freezing

**DEMI** = half

**DENT** = tooth

**DERM** = skin

**DYN** = power, energy

**HYPER** = excessive

**KIN** = motion

**MUT** = change

**MY/O** = muscle

**OMNI** = all

**OSTEO** = bone

**PAN** = entire

**PED** = foot

**PHON** = sound

**POLY** = many

**PYR** = fire, heat

**RHIN/O** = nose

**RUPT** = burst

**UNI** = one

**VOC** = voice

## YOUR TURN

Use the roots above to create a new name for a real animal or object.

For example, you may want to rename a kitten. Kittens are constantly moving around.

You may choose the roots **HYPER** (excessive) + **KIN** (motion) to rename a kitten a **HYPERKIN**!

1. Choose an animal or object:

3. Select possible roots for its new name:

2. List its qualities:

4. Create its new name:

**WRITING CHALLENGE:** On a separate sheet of paper, describe the animal or object using only its NEW name. Include details that you find fantastic or interesting. When you have finished, swap papers with a partner. See if you can guess each other's animals or objects!

**MAGI|ZOO|LOGY**  
— Magic — Animal — Study —

Take the Magizooology 101 quiz to find out which fantastic beast you have the most in common with! At [scholastic.com/fantasticbeasts101](https://www.scholastic.com/fantasticbeasts101).