

## Handout 8: Common Root Words for Math, Science, and Social Studies

### Math

Root	Meaning	Example	Definition
circum	around	circumscribe	to draw a line around; to encircle
centi	hundred	centimeter	1/100 of a meter
equi	equal	equivalent	of equal measure
hemi	half	hemisphere	half a sphere
milli	thousand	millisecond	1/1000 of a second
poly	many	polygon	a figure with many sides
uni, mono	one	unilateral	one sided
bi, di, duo	two	biweekly	twice per week
tri	three	triangle	a figure with three sides and three angles
quad, tetra	four	quadrilateral	a figure with four sides
quint, pent	five	pentagon	a figure with five sides
sex, hex	six	hexagon	a figure with six sides
sept, hept	seven	heptagon	a figure with seven sides
oct	eight	octagon	a figure with eight sides
nov	nine		
dec	ten	decimeter	1/10 of a meter
lat	side	lateral	relating to the side

*Handout 8* (continued)*Common Root Words for Math, Science, and Social Studies***Science**

Root	Meaning	Example	Definition
agri	field	agronomy	field-crop production and soil management
anthropo	man	anthropology	the study of man
astro	star	astronaut	one who travels in interplanetary space
bio	life	biology	the study of life
cardio	heart	cardiac	pertaining to the heart
cede	go	precede	to go before
chromo	color	chromatology	the science of colors
derma	skin	epidermis	the outer layer of skin
dyna	power	dynamic	characterized by power and energy
geo	earth	geology	the study of the earth
helio	sun	heliotrope	any plant that turns toward the sun
hydro	water	hydroponics	growing of plants in water reinforced with nutrients
hypno	sleep	hypnosis	a state of sleep induced by suggestion
ject	throw	eject	to throw out
magni	great, big	magnify	to make larger
mono	one	monoplane	airplane with one wing
ortho	straight	orthodox	right, true, straight opinion
pod	foot	pseudo pod	false foot
psycho	mind	psychology	study of the mind in any of its aspects
pyro	fire	pyrometer	an instrument for measuring temperatures
terra	earth	terrace	a raised platform of earth
thermo	heat	thermometer	instrument for measuring heat
zoo	animal	zoology	the study of animals

*Handout 8* (continued)*Common Root Words for Math, Science, and Social Studies***Social Studies**

Root	Meaning	Example	Definition
agri	field	agronomy	field-crop production and soil management
ante	before	antebellum	before the war
anthropo	man	anthropology	the study of man
auto	self	autocrat	a person who rules with absolute authority
bene	good	benefit	an act of kindness; a gift
contra	against	contradict	to speak against
demos	people	democracy	government by the people
endo	within	endogamy	marriage within the tribe
ex	out	excavate	to dig out
fac, fact	to make or do	factory	a building where goods are made
man(u)	hand	manuscript	written by hand
mis, mit	to send	transmit	to send out
neo	new	Neolithic	new stone age
pan	all	pantheon	a temple dedicated to all gods
pre	before	precede	to go before
port	to carry	export	carry goods out of the country
pro	for	proponent	a supporter
proto	first	prototype	first or original model
retro	backward	retrospect	a looking back on things
spect	to look	inspect	to look closely
trans	across	transatlantic	across the Atlantic
ven, vent	to come	convention	a gathering of people who come together for a common purpose