

Submitted by: GENERATION CURES

**TITLE:** WORD ORIGINS

**SUBJECT:** English Language Arts

**GRADE:** 5th

**RECOMMENDED TIME:** 25-30 minutes

**GENERATION CURES CONTENT:** Zebrafish Webisode 1-What's a Zebrafish?

**LEARNING GOALS:**

Students will focus on English language origins, word roots, prefixes, and suffixes. Language origins, particularly Latin and Greek, are an important and effective tool for enhancing vocabulary.

**RESOURCES/MATERIALS NEEDED:**

- Computer / Internet / Projector
- Pen / Pencil / Paper
- Zebrafish Webisode #1, "What's a Zebrafish" [www.kids.generationcures.org](http://www.kids.generationcures.org)
- Index cards
- Dictionary: Define
  - Vita- though it is her proper name, the word "*vita*" is of Latin origin, meaning life.
  - Callous- Vita mentions that her guitar playing has produced a callous on her fingers, as often happens to guitar players. A callous is a hardened or thickened area, usually on the skin.
  - Albino- Pablo describes the Zebrafish that are used for medical research as albino, or mutants. An albino Zebrafish is one that is lacking skin color or pigment and is usually see-through or transparent.
  - Mutant- a result of a random change in genes, causing an unexpected trait. Mutant 'albino' Zebrafish are one example of a mutation, which affects the gene that causes color in the fish.

**BACKGROUND:**

- While visiting her brother Pablo at the hospital, Vita notices a Zebrafish in a fish tank. Pablo explains that Zebrafish are used in medical research to treat illness. So Vita takes the name Zebrafish for her band's name. The only problem: her band mates don't play any instruments.

**LESSON STEPS:**

- **Watch with a Purpose:** Discuss with students Vita’s name and the Latin word *vita*, meaning “life” before showing them the video, and ask if there is a connection between Vita’s name and the main idea of the Zebrafish webisodes.
- Discuss how Vita arrives at the name “Zebrafish” for her band’s name (she thought it sounded “cool”) and how we make decisions around the sounds of words in the world around us.
- Review words that have Greek/ Latin prefixes and suffixes:

Prefix/Suffix/Root	Meaning	Examples
<i>Aqua-</i>	Water	Aquarium, Aqueduct,
<i>Audi-</i>	To Hear	Audio, Audible
<i>Bene-</i>	Good	Benefit, Benediction
<i>Gen-</i>	Birth	Genetics, Congenital, Generate, Geneology
<i>Log / logos-</i>	Word	Dialogue
<i>Philo-</i> <i>Sophos-</i>	Love Wisdom	Philosophy
<i>Vid / vis-</i>	To See	Video, Visual

- Set up a game of Word Game Jeopardy using index cards and the words above. If there are too many students to participate at once, divide the class into groups of five.
  - On each card write an unfamiliar word like “Dialogue” on one side, and on the other side write a question leading to that word.
  - Have students ask one another about a word and its origin by using the side of the card with the definition and clues.
  - Play for about 20 minutes

**Example:**

Students might ask one another: “What is a word meaning ‘conversation’ that is derived from the Greek word ‘dia’ meaning ‘through’ and the Greek word ‘logos’ meaning ‘word?’” Student’s answer- “Dialogue.”

**EXTENSIONS:**

**Word book:** Have students keep a log in which they write down and analyze difficult words or phrases from material they read at home. Ask them to try to figure out what the words mean from the context of the surrounding sentence and their growing knowledge of roots, prefixes and suffixes before they look it up in a dictionary.