

geo

[GAY oh] earth

geography - (graph - write, draw) - draw the earth (make maps) and write about it

geographer - one who makes maps and writes about the earth

geology - (logos - word, study) - study of the earth and its formations

geologist - one who studies the formations of the earth's crust; rocks, minerals, oil, etc.

geometry - (metron - measure) - branch of study on ways to measure the earth

George - (ergon - work) - one who works the earth; a farmer

Teaching Notes:

George - Not everyone who is named George is a farmer these days, but that's what the name really means! Agriculture has always been a highly respected profession since it was by working the earth and raising crops that all civilizations have lived since they progressed beyond the hunter-gatherer stage. The Greek poet and farmer, Hesiod (c. 700 B.C.)*, in his *Works and Days*, and the Roman poet, Vergil (70-19 B.C.), in *Georgics* celebrated the life of a farmer. Geometry - The ancient Greeks were interested in the size of the earth and invented ways to measure it. One man, Eratosthenes (c. 276-194 B.C.) thought the earth was round, not flat, and accurately measured the circumference of the earth! He read that a post cast no shadow on June 21 in Syene (800 km south of Alexandria, Egypt) but that a post in Alexandria DID cast a shadow on the same day! Carl Sagan's COSMOS series, episode #1, shows just how Eratosthenes figured out the earth's circumference.

Extra Words:

Geocentrism (kentros - center) - theory that the earth is the center of the universe. Geochrony (chronos - time) - Geologic time measured since the world began.

* c. - abbreviation for circa - around, approximately

terra

[TAIR rah] land

territory - land under control of a government or owner

terrace - raised platform of earth

terra cotta - (coquo, coctum - cook) - "cooked earth",
fired clay pottery, tiles, etc.

terrarium - garden in a small glass container

terrestrial - pertaining to the earth

extraterrestrial - (extra - outside) - outside the earth's
atmosphere

terrier - small dog which hunts for burrowing game

Mediterranean Sea - (medius - middle) - the sea in the
middle of the land

Teaching Notes:

Territory - This word is usually thought to come from terra - earth, but some sources say that, since it is land which belongs to someone, it may have also come from terreo, territum, which means "frighten", with the idea that it was land from which outsiders were warned or frightened off. It's a good story, but I think we can safely group it with terra's derivatives. Terra cotta is an Italian word which has been taken into English. The Latin word for the same sort of glazed or unglazed pottery or tiles was terra cocta. Firing or "cooking" the clay, of course, made it durable and able to hold water. Extraterrestrial - This word is written as one long, unhyphenated word, but of course, E.T. would write it as two words, as his initials indicate. Terrier - This small hunting dog was trained to dig for small burrowing game animals such as rabbits, badgers, etc.

Extra Words:

Inter (in - in, into) put into the earth, bury. When intér means "bury", you must accent the second syllable. Terrain - A tract of land considered for its features such as hills, ravines, etc.

dormio

dormitum

[DOHR mee ō, dohr MEE toom] sleep

dormant - sleeping

dormant spray - insecticide for plants used in the non-growing season

dormitory - place for sleeping

dormer window - bedroom window set into a roof

dormouse - sleeping (hibernating) mouse

dormeuse - railway sleeping car

dormitive - something that causes sleep

dormition - act of sleeping

Teaching Notes:

Latin is an “inflected” language. That means it “bends” (from the Latin word flecto, flectere, flexi, flexum - to bend) the endings of words rather than using extra words, such as I, you, he, she, or it. (WE say, “I sleep”, “you sleep”, “he sleeps”, etc.). Latin attaches the I, you, she, etc., to the end of the word like this: dormio - I sleep, dormis - you sleep, dormit - he, she, or it sleeps. The DORMI- stays the same and gives you the “sleep” idea. The endings, -o, -s, -t, tell you WHO is sleeping. In English, we take the “root” word DORMI- and add various endings which form our derivatives – all having something to do with the idea of “sleep”.

Italian, Spanish, and French started out as dialects of Latin, so if you know this Latin root DORM, you won’t be surprised to find that a word for “sleep” in Italian is “dormire”, in Spanish is “dormir”, and in French, “dormir”. Learning these Latin roots will give you a great head start on learning the vocabulary of these three modern Romance languages!

Dormer window - Attic rooms under the roof are often used as bedrooms. The windows, being vertical and set into a slanted roof, have their own little roofs. Perhaps the children can find pictures of them in the encyclopedia. Dormouse - He’s not a mouse who comes in your door, nor does he have a door to his own house. He hibernates during cold months. Remember that in *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*, the dormouse just couldn’t stay awake at the tea party?

hypnos

[HEWP noss] (HIP noss) sleep

hypnosis - sleep-like state controlled by a hypnotizer

hypnotize - put into a hypnotic sleep or trance

hypnology - (logos - word, study) - study of sleep

hypnotic - tending to induce sleep

hypnotherapy - (therapeia - treatment) - treatment of disease by hypnosis

hypnophobia - (phobos - fear) - fear of sleep

Hypnos - god of sleep in Greek mythology; Somnus

Teaching Notes:

Dormio, the Latin word for sleep, refers to the usual kind of sleeping which we all do every night. The English words derived from it carry that same connotation.

Derivatives from the Greek word, hypnos are somewhat different. Perhaps it has something to do with the fact that Hypnos, the mythological god of sleep, had a twin brother, Thanatos, god of death, who didn't care for gifts and was NOT worshipped! Both were the fatherless sons of Nyx (night). Hypnos, according to Hesiod, lived in the underworld and never got to see the sun. He did, however, come softly to men and bestow restful sleep upon them, sometimes by gently brushing the forehead of a weary one with a leafy branch, or by pouring a sleep-inducing liquid from a horn (rather like early powder horns, perhaps?). He is a sort of classical forerunner of the sandman, celebrated in folklore. When children began to get sleepy and to rub their eyes, their elders would nod wisely and say that the sandman had dropped some of his "sleeping sand" into their eyes and that it was clearly time for bed!

English derivatives from hypnos refer mostly to the kind of sleeping trance which is induced by a hypnotist who then has control over his subject and can make him think or do whatever the hypnotist suggests. Rather than bestowing natural sleep, hypnosis involves yielding control of one's thoughts and will to another, who may or may not have the best interests of the "sleeper" at heart. Hypnosis has been used for many years as an entertainment act - particularly in old-time vaudeville. There are various and controversial medical applications of hypnosis today.

annus

[AHN noos] year

annual - yearly

anniversary - (verto, versum - turn) - celebration marking the turning of a year

biannual - (bi - two) - occurring twice a year

biennial - (bi - two) - every two years

triannual - (tri - three) - three times a year

triennial - (tri - three) - every three years

centennial - (centum - hundred) - every hundred years

millennial - (mille - thousand) - every thousand years

perennial - (per - through) - through the years

annuity - amount of money paid yearly

annals - historical events recorded year by year

Teaching Notes:

A useful thing to remember about all these English words derived from ANNUS is the presence of the “nn” in each one of them. The “a” in ANNUS changes to “e” in many of the words in our list. It is also useful to point out to children that biannual (with an “a”) means “two times a year” whereas biennial (with an “e”) means “every two years”. The same holds true for triannual and triennial.

Pages 35-44 feature Latin cardinal numbers (e.g., one, two, three, etc.) all of which combine with the “-ennial” ending and mean “every four, five, six, etc., years”: quadrennial, quinquennial, sexennial, septennial, octennial, novennial, decennial, centennial, and millennial. All use the cardinal number root words and not the ordinal number words (e.g., first, second, third, etc.). (Latin ordinal number words will be given in Volume II of this book series.)

Investing money in an annuity is one of the many ways that working people can provide a yearly income for the rest of their lives when they retire and can no longer work.

Ancient Roman historians at first wrote annals in which they recorded important events, records of magistrates, religious events, etc. Annalists later wrote more interesting stories about what was happening. The whole concept of history and how it is recorded, published and preserved is worth thinking about and discussing in class. Perhaps the class could write the “Annals of the school year”.