

Word Origins for Little Explorers

Etymology · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. The word 'alphabet' comes from the names of the first two letters of which ancient language?

- A) Latin
- B) Greek**
- C) Hebrew
- D) Egyptian

2. The word 'robot' comes from a Czech word that originally meant what?

- A) Worker**
- B) Machine
- C) Helper
- D) Metal

3. The English word 'candy' can be traced back to the Sanskrit word 'khanda', which refers to what substance?

- A) Sugar**
- B) Honey
- C) Fruit
- D) Spice

4. The word 'galaxy' comes from a Greek word that means what?

- A) Bright light
- B) Star path
- C) Milky circle**
- D) Space dust

5. Which animal's name comes from an ancient word meaning 'earth lion'?

- A) Tiger
- B) Giraffe
- C) Hippopotamus**
- D) Elephant

6. The word 'camera' comes from a Latin word that originally meant what?

- A) Light box
- B) Dark room**
- C) Glass lens
- D) Picture frame

7. The word 'dinosaur' was created by combining two Greek words that mean what?

- A) Big lizard
- B) Terrible lizard**
- C) Ancient beast
- D) Strong giant

8. The word 'sandwich' is named after a person who held which title?

- A) A famous explorer
- B) An English Earl**
- C) A royal king
- D) A hungry inventor

9. The word 'school' comes from a Greek word that originally meant what?

- A) Study hall
- B) Leisure or spare time**
- C) Writing place
- D) Teacher's house

10. The name 'kangaroo' is thought to have come from the Guugu Yimithirr word 'gangurru', which refers to what?

- A) A jumping animal
- B) A large black kangaroo**
- C) A grass eater
- D) A fast runner

11. The word 'pyjama' comes from a Persian word that means what?

- A) Soft clothes
- B) Leg garment**
- C) Sleep suit
- D) Night fabric

12. The word 'banana' is believed to have originated from an Arabic word that means what?

- A) Finger**
- B) Yellow fruit
- C) Sweet bunch
- D) Soft skin

13. The English word 'orange' (the fruit) originally came from the Sanskrit word 'naranga', which means what?

- A) Golden ball
- B) Orange tree**
- C) Bright skin
- D) Citrus scent

14. The word 'koala' is thought to come from an Indigenous Australian language meaning what?

- A) Tree climber
- B) No drink**
- C) Sleepy animal
- D) Grey fur

15. The word 'paper' comes from the name of which ancient plant?

- A) Bamboo
- B) Papyrus**
- C) Reed grass
- D) Cotton

16. The word 'taxi' is a shortened form of which word?

- A) Taximeter**
- B) Transportation
- C) Traveler
- D) Taxicab

17. The word 'avocado' comes from the Aztec word 'ahuacatl', which literally translates to what?

- A) Green butter
- B) Testicle**
- C) Tree pear
- D) Hard skin

18. The word 'igloo' comes from the Inuit word 'iglu', which simply means what?

- A) Ice house
- B) Winter home
- C) A house**
- D) Small shelter

19. The word 'balloon' comes from an Italian word that means what?

A) Big ball

B) Floating toy

C) Air sack

D) Round shape

20. The word 'umbrella' comes from the Latin word 'umbra', which means what?

A) Rain

B) Shadow

C) Shield

D) Cover