

Nature and Animal Etymology

Etymology · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. The word 'hippopotamus' is derived from Ancient Greek and literally translates to what?

- A) River horse**
- B) Water giant
- C) Mud swimmer
- D) Large beast

2. The word 'orchid' originates from the Ancient Greek word 'orchis', which refers to what anatomical shape?

- A) A heart
- B) A star
- C) A testicle**
- D) A teardrop

3. The word 'alligator' comes from the Spanish term 'el lagarto', which means what?

- A) The hunter
- B) The lizard**
- C) The swamp dweller
- D) The green skin

4. The English word 'volcano' is derived from the name of which Roman god of fire?

- A) Jupiter
- B) Mars
- C) Neptune
- D) Vulcan**

5. The word 'canary', referring to the bird, is named after which geographical location?

- A) The Canary Islands**
- B) The Caribbean Sea
- C) The Canadian Rockies
- D) The Caspian region

6. The term 'petrichor', which describes the pleasant smell of earth after rain, comes from the Greek word 'petra' meaning what?

- A) Water
- B) Stone**
- C) Cloud
- D) Earth

7. The word 'penguin' is thought to originate from the Welsh words 'pen' and 'gwyn', which translate to what?

A) White head

B) Cold feet

C) Small wing

D) Fish eater

8. The term 'mosquito' comes from Spanish and Portuguese, acting as a diminutive form of the word 'mosca', meaning what?

A) Biter

B) Fly

C) Buzz

D) Small

9. The word 'canyon' comes from the Spanish word 'cañón', which originally referred to what object?

A) A tube or pipe

B) A deep hole

C) A rocky path

D) A water flow

10. The word 'squirrel' finds its etymological roots in the Ancient Greek 'skiouros', which literally translates to what?

A) Nut seeker

B) Shadow tail

C) Quick climber

D) Tree dweller

11. The word 'bamboo' is believed to have entered English from which language family, describing the sound the wood makes when burned?

A) Malay

B) Latin

C) Arabic

D) Greek

12. The name 'chrysanthemum' is composed of Greek words that mean what?

A) Gold flower

B) Sun bloom

C) Petal star

D) Yellow leaf