

Nature and Animal Etymology

Etymology · Practice Test · 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