



# CREATURE FEATURE

Understanding the scientific naming process



## HIGH SCHOOL

### KEY WORDS

- genus
- species

### STANDARDS

- SCI.B.8.2

### OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn that all living things are given a two-part Latin or Greek scientific name. This a uniform form of classification
- Students will learn that scientists separate living things into groups to allow for easier study.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Scientific names are usually formed from descriptive Latin or Greek words.
- Scientific names consist of the animal's genus and species.
- The genus is the first part of the scientific name. A genus is a group of closely related animals within a family. The genus should start with a capital letter and be italicized or underlined.
- The species is the second part of the scientific name. A species is the most specialized division. A species name is never capitalized.

### PROCEDURE

- Using the Latin and Greek Roots list provided, have students match the imaginary animal pictures to their imaginary scientific names on the worksheet.
- Students also need to write the meaning of the scientific names.

### RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Check the students' answers for accuracy.

### EXTENSIONS

- Use a variety of craft materials (pipe cleaners, yarn, egg cartons, fast-food containers, etc.) to make imaginary animals. Have the students name their animal according to the prefixes and suffixes listed in this activity.

### ANSWER KEY

- Unicornis curvipoda - #7, one horned with curved feet
- Platyrrhino polypunctata - #2, wide flat nose with many dots
- Diplocephalus polylineatus - #3, two headed with many lines
- Spheropoda multilineatus - #1, globe like foot with many lines
- Melanopunctata platypoda - #4, black dotted with wide, flat feet
- Semipunctata platypede - #5, half dotted with wide, flat legs
- Unicornis macroauri - #6, one horned with large ears





# CREATURE FEATURE

Latin & Greek Roots



## NUMBERS

- bi - two
- di - two
- diplo twice
- hemi - half
- mon single
- mono - one
- multi - many
- novem - nine
- octo - eight
- pent - five
- poly - many
- quad - four
- quin - five
- semi - half
- sept - seven
- sex - six
- tetra - four
- tri - three
- uni - one

## ANIMAL TERMS

- anceps - two headed
- avi - bird
- bufo - toad
- campus - sea monster
- canis - dog
- felis - cat
- hippo - horse
- ichthyes - fish
- ophio - snake, serpent
- rana - frog

## DESCRIPTION

- alti - high
- annuli - ringed
- aqua - water
- bates - climber
- brevis - short
- cinctus - girdle, encircle
- coronatus - crowned
- curvi - curved
- dasy - shaggy
- echino - spiny
- erectus - upright
- hydro - water
- hyla - tree
- hylo - tree
- lati - broad
- lepto - thin
- lineatus - lined
- macro - large
- marinus - marine
- mega - large
- micro - small
- nudi - naked
- pachy - thick
- phyll - leaf
- platy - wide, flat
- porus - with holes
- pseudo - false
- punctata - dotted
- scler - hard
- sphere - globe
- volans - flying

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## COLORS

- chloro - green
- coccineus - scarlet
- cyano - blue
- flavi - yellow
- leuco - white
- melano - black
- rhodo - red
- xanth - yellow

## BODY PARTS

- auri - ear
- carpus - wrist
- caudata - tail
- cephalus - head
- cornis - horn
- dactyl - finger
- dentata - toothed
- derm - skin
- morpha - body form
- pede - leg
- penni - feather
- poda - foot
- ptera - wing
- pus - face
- rhino - nose
- stoma - mouth
- uros - tail



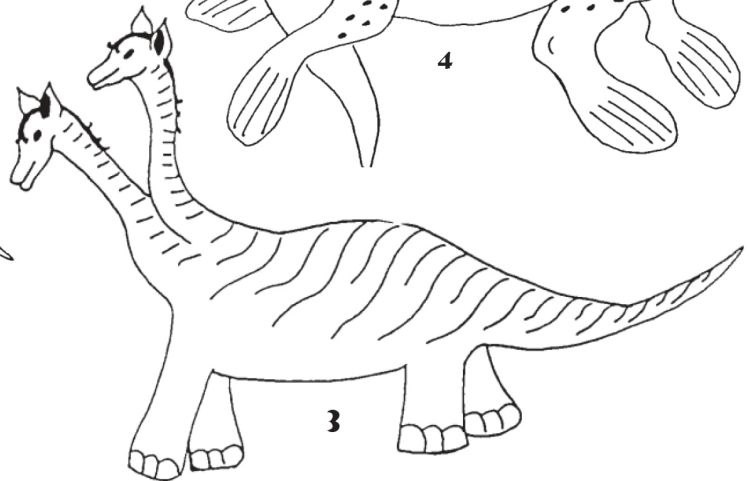
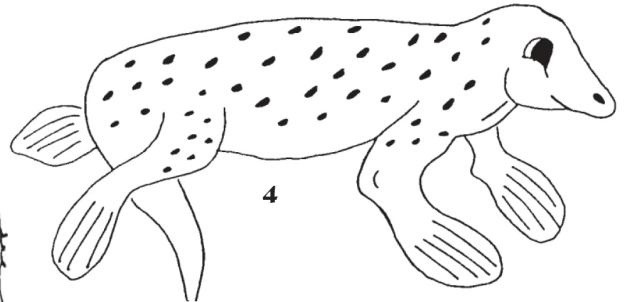
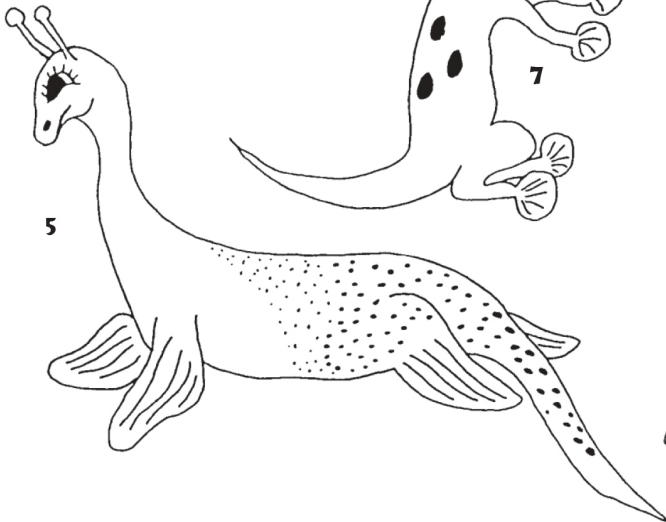
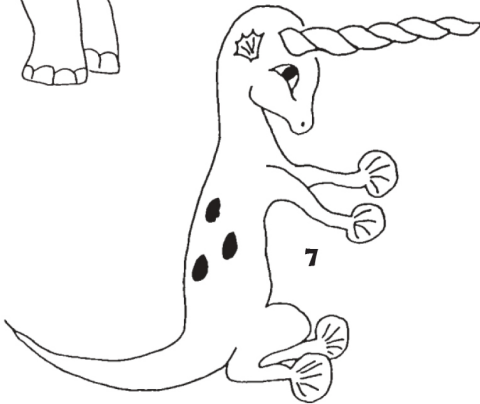
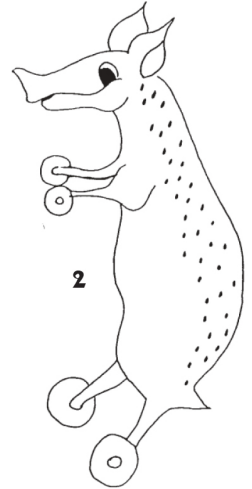
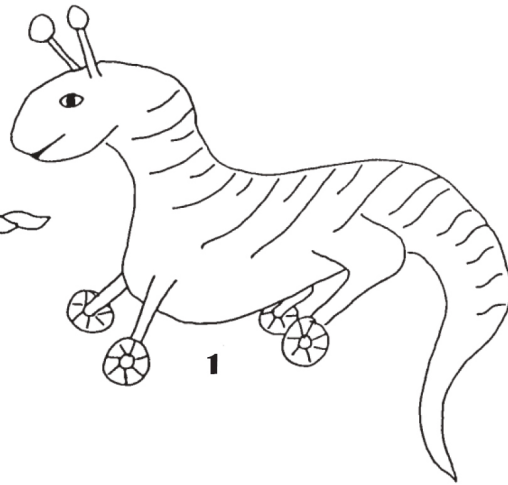
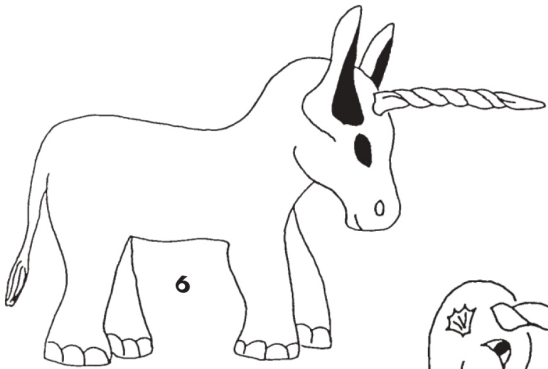


# CREATURE FEATURE

Match the imaginary animals to their imaginary scientific names



Name \_\_\_\_\_



## ANIMAL #

## SCIENTIFIC NAME

## MEANING

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

- Unicornis curvipoda
- Platyrhino polypunctata
- Diplocephalus polylineatus
- Spheropoda multilineatus
- Melanopunctata platypoda
- Semipunctata platypede
- Unicornis macroauri

- One horned with curved feet
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

