

Roots of Rarity Answer Key

1. **Serendipitous** - Origin: Persian via English *Serendip* (Sri Lanka) + suffix *-ous*; Root meaning: "fortunate discovery by chance." Connection: The term still means finding good things unexpectedly.
2. **Melancholy** - Origin: Greek *melas* (black) + *khole* (bile); Root meaning: "black bile," once thought to cause sadness. Connection: Today, it describes a deep, lasting sadness.
3. **Labyrinthine** - Origin: Greek *labyrinthos* (maze); Root meaning: "double-axe building/maze." Connection: The modern sense describes something complex and twisting like a maze.
4. **Panacea** - Origin: Greek *pan* (all) + *akos* (cure); Root meaning: "universal remedy." Connection: It still means a supposed solution for every problem.
5. **Magnanimous** - Origin: Latin *magnus* (great) + *animus* (spirit); Root meaning: "great-souled." Connection: It now refers to someone generous or noble in spirit.

Teacher's Guide

- **Purpose:** This worksheet deepens students' vocabulary knowledge by connecting rare words to their historical and linguistic roots.
- **Teaching Tips:**
 - Use it as an introduction to studying Latin and Greek roots.
 - Encourage students to use etymology dictionaries or online resources for word exploration.
- **Differentiation:**
 - *Support:* Provide root hints or partial etymologies for struggling learners.
 - *Enrichment:* Ask advanced students to find and present another rare word's etymology in class.
- **Engagement Idea:** Turn it into a "Word Time Machine" activity where students illustrate or dramatize how a word's meaning has changed over centuries.
- **Extension Activity:** Have students write a short paragraph using at least two of the rare words in context, showing they understand both meaning and origin.