**Scientific Naming**

Scientific names come from Latin or Greek. The combination of words gives a short description of the organism. When words are combined, sometimes you need to drop letters, like an ‘s’ at the end. You can also add letters, like ‘i', ‘e’ or ‘o’ in the middle or ‘us’ or ‘um’ at the end.

The table below shows a selection of words used in naming species.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| What it does | | What it looks like | | Its body | |
| Word | **Meaning** | **Word** | **Meaning** | **Word** | **Meaning** |
| *amphi* | half | *aculeat* | spiny | *arctos* | bear |
| *bios* | life | *cinereus* | grey | *canis* | dog |
| *malus* | bad | *deinos* | terrible | *dactylo* | finger |
| *odorus* | smelling | *fuliginous* | sooty | *entomon* | insect |
| *sulcata* | digging | *macro* | large | *glossus* | tongue |
|  |  | *obesus* | fat | *phascolo* | pouch |
|  |  | *rufus* | red | *pus* | foot |
|  |  | *trachys* | rough | *sauros* | lizard |
|  |  | *tri* | three |  |  |

1. You have just found an *Entomonisulcata* in the garden. Explain what you have found.
2. What would a *Canis rufusobesus* look like?
3. What does the name ‘dinosaur’ tell you about those animals?
4. Frogs and toads are **amphibians**. They spend part of their lives in water and part on land. Why is amphibian an appropriate name for this group of animals?
5. You have found a new species of lizard that has three toes on each foot. What could you call it and why?
6. Would an *Odormalasaurus* make a good pet? Explain your answer.
7. The scientific names of four native Australian animals are shown below. For each animal, state what the name means and what its common name is. The first one has been done for you.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Scientific Name** | **Meaning** | **Common Name** |
| *Tachyglossus aculeatus* | Rough tongue, spiny | Echidna |
| *Phasocolarctos cinereus* |  |  |
| *Macropus rufus* |  |  |
| *Macropus fuliginosus* |  |  |