**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.

**You have found a digging insect.**

1. What would a *Canis rufusobesus* look like?

**A *Canis rufusobesus* would look likea fat red dog.**

1. What does the name ‘dinosaur’ tell you about those animals?

**The name dinosaur tells you those animals were terrible lizards.**

1. 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?

**Amphbian is an appropriate name for this group of animals because amphibian means half life. You could say that half their life is spent on land and the other half in water.**

1. You have found a new species of lizard that has three toes on each foot. What could you call it and why?

**You would call it *Sauros tripus* or *Tripus sauros*.**

1. Would an *Odormalasaurus* make a good pet? Explain your answer.

**No, an *Odormalasaurus* would not make a good pet. *Odormalasaurus* means bad smelling lizard.**

1. 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* | **Pouch, bear, grey** | **Koala** |
| *Macropus rufus* | **Large foot, red** | **Red Kangaroo** |
| *Macropus fuliginosus* | **Large foot, sooty** | **Western Grey** |