



**Make Your Own Scientific Name!**




Once you know the meanings of some Latin and Greek words and word parts, it's fun to experiment and come up with your own scientific names. In order to combine the words, sometimes you need to drop letters, like an "s" on the end. Sometimes you need to add letters, like *e*, *i*, or *o*, in the middle, or an *us* or *um* at the end.

Check out our list of words and word parts, and try combining them to make up your own creatures. Once you've made up some names, try drawing pictures of your new creations! (By the way, did you figure out the meanings of the scientific names for the cheetah and the koala?)



*giant anteater Myrmecophaga tridactyla*  
("eater of ants, with three fingers")

**Example:** a *Cerobates dynatos* would mean a "strong horned walker." What might that creature look like? An *Erythrofloris dicordis* would be a "two-hearted red flower." Can you imagine a plant like that? Okay, here's one for you: what would an *Ominoctis leptoglossus* be?

Word Lists			
<p><b>How It Looks</b>  <i>acantho-</i> prickly  <i>aci-, acies, acer</i>                      sharp  <i>acoce-</i> pointed  <i>acro-</i> top  <i>adustus</i> brown  <i>albus</i> white  <i>angustus</i> narrow  <i>barbatus</i> bearded  <i>brevis</i> short  <i>brun</i> brown  <i>cephalos</i> headed  <i>ceros</i> horn  <i>cinereus</i> gray  <i>collis</i> necked  <i>composo-</i> pretty  <i>cornutus</i> horned  <i>di-</i> two  <i>erio-</i> woolly  <i>erythros</i> red  <i>eurys</i> broad, wide  <i>folius</i> leaved  <i>formis</i> shaped  <i>formosus</i> beautiful  <i>gigantos</i> giant  <i>gravos</i> heavy  <i>hapalus</i> soft  <i>hoplites</i> armored  <i>humidus</i> moist, wet  <i>ignis</i> fire  <i>inermis</i> bare  <i>infectus</i> dyed</p>	<p><b>How It Behaves</b></p>  <p><i>African hedgehog</i>  <b><i>Aterix albiventris</i></b>                      ("ineffective fighter with a white belly")</p> <p><i>adephtagos</i> greedy  <i>aedes</i> unpleasant  <i>allo-</i> strange  <i>apatelos</i> deceptive  <i>ateles</i> imperfect,                      ineffective  <i>diligens</i> diligent, careful  <i>dynatos</i> strong  <i>ferox</i> fierce  <i>garrulus</i> talkative, chattering  <i>habros</i> graceful  <i>idris</i> skillful  <i>insignis</i> remarkable  <i>malus</i> bad  <i>necopinus</i> unexpected  <i>neo-</i> new  <i>sophos</i> wise  <i>tardus</i> slow  <i>velox, veloci-</i> fast, speedy  <i>xeno</i> strange</p>	<p><b>What It Does</b>  <i>altus</i> high  <i>bates</i> walker  <i>blanos</i> blind  <i>carnis</i> meat  <i>edestes</i> eater  <i>frugis</i> fruit  <i>gradus</i> step, walk  <i>hyphantos</i> weaver  <i>indagator</i> hunter  <i>necto-</i> swimming  <i>odorus</i> smelling  <i>pedetes</i> leaper</p>  <p><i>Papuan hornbill</i> <b><i>Aceros plicatus</i></b>                      ("sharp point with wrinkles")</p> <p><i>phago-</i> eat  <i>-phoro, phorus</i> carrier  <i>sulcata</i> furrowing, digging  <i>venator</i> hunter  <i>vorus</i> eating</p>	<p><b>Where It Lives</b>  <i>amnicus</i> of a stream  <i>aqua</i> water  <i>aerios, aerius</i> of the air or sky  <i>aura</i> gentle breeze  <i>chortinos</i> of the grass  <i>dendron</i> tree  <i>diurnis</i> daytime  <i>geo</i> earth, dirt  <i>hylo</i> wood, branch  <i>marinus</i> of the sea  <i>monti-, montanus</i> of the mountains  <i>noctis</i> night  <i>potamos</i> river  <i>silvanus</i> from the woods  <i>terra</i> land</p>  <p><i>chuckwalla</i> <b><i>sauromalus obesus</i></b>                      ("fat dark lizard")</p>

*infra* underneath  
*jubatus* maned  
*juxta* near  
*lasios* hairy  
*lati-* wide  
*leptos* slender  
*leuco-* white  
*lopho-, lophus* crest, tuft  
*macro* large  
*maculosus* spotted  
*major* greater  
*malus* dark  
*mega-* huge  
*mela-* black  
*minor* small  
*nefrens* toothless  
*nitidus* shining  
*nodosus* lumpy  
*obesus* fat  
*offella* little bit  
*pachy-* thick  
*penta-* five  
*pictus, picti-* colored, painted  
*pinnatus* feathered  
*plicatus* folded, wrinkled  
*poly-* many  
*protos* first  
*pygmaeus* dwarf, little  
*rhamphos, rhamphus* curved beak  
*rigidus* stiff  
*rotundus* round  
*ruber* red  
*sarco-* fleshy  
*scolio-* crooked  
*syn* with  
*trachys* rough  
*tragulus* spear  
*tri-* three  
*vir-, viridis* green

**Body Parts**

*ala* wing  
*cordis* heart



Queensland koala  
**Phascolarctos cinereus**  
*adustus* ("brown gray pouched bear")

*dactyl* fingered  
*dorsum* back  
*frons, frondis* forehead  
*gamba* hoof  
*glossus* tongue  
*mastax* mouth, jaws  
*naris* nostril  
*-odon* toothed  
*onyx* claw  
*ops* eye  
*ossis* bone  
*oto-* ear  
*pectus, pectoris* chest  
*pedalis* footed  
*pes* foot  
*phascolo-* bag, pouch  
*rhamphos, rhamphus* curved beak  
*rhinos, rhinus* nose  
*ventris* belly  
*vultus* face

**What It Is, What It Resembles, or Something It Eats**

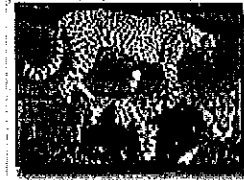
*aetos* eagle  
*anthos* flower  
*arctos* bear  
*bestia* beast  
*canis* dog  
*cervus* deer  
*chelone* turtle  
*elaphus* deer  
*entomon* insect  
*equus* horse  
*felis* cat  
*flori-* flowering



African spurred tortoise  
**Geochelone sulcata**  
*(“furlowing earth turtle”)*

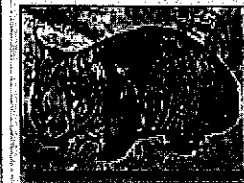
*floris* flower  
*haliaetus* sea eagle  
*herba* plant  
*mus* mouse  
*myrmeco-* ant  
*orni-* bird  
*ovis* sheep  
*petra* rock  
*piscis* fish  
*pithecus* monkey  
*radicis* root  
*sauros* lizard  
*sus* hog  
*tragus* goat

**Place Names**



cheetah **Acinonyx jubatus** ("sharp clawed and maned")

Africa *africanus, capensis*  
 Asia *occidentalis*  
 Australia *australis*  
 Borneo *borneoensis*  
 California *californianus*  
 Canada *canadensis*  
 Chile *chilensis*  
 Egypt *aegyptius*  
 India *bengalensis* or *indica*  
 Java *javanicus*  
 Madagascar *madagascariensis*  
 Mexico *mexicana*  
 Siberia *sibiricus*  
 United States *americanus*



*hairy nosed* wombat  
**Lasiorhinus latifrons**  
*(“hairy nosed with a wide forehead”)*