“It’s All Greek to Me”

The Greek mathematician Euclid, who lived around 300 B.C., is known as the “Father of Geometry.” Some people consider Euclid’s *Elements* the most successful textbook in the history of mathematics. Since geometry was developed by Euclid, many geometric terms are of Greek origin.

If you know the meaning of some basic Greek roots, you can decipher the meaning of many geometric terms and other English words that use the same Greek roots. Try your hand at defining the words below that contain some of the Greek roots we discussed in class.

1. **Polygon**s have ________________   ___________________.
2. **Polyhedron**s have ________________   ___________________ , each a polygon.
3. **Polynesia** is an area with ________________   ___________________.
4. **Polymorphs** are ________________   ___________________ of a substance.
5. **Polysyllable** words have ________________   ___________________.
6. **Polytheistic** people worship ________________   ___________________.
7. An **octagon** has ________________   ___________________.
8. An **octahedron** has ________________   ___________________.
9. An **octopus** has ________________   ___________________.
10. A **decagon** has ________________   ___________________.
11. A **decade** is ________________   ___________________.
12. A **decameter** is ________________   ___________________ long.
13. An **isosceles** triangle has two ________________ of ________________ length.
14. An **isotherm** is a line on a weather map connecting points with ________________   ___________________.
15. A **scalene** triangle has three sides of ________________ length.

**Greek roots:**

- deka=ten
- gonia=angle
- hedron=face
- isos=equal
- morph=form
- nesos=island
- okta=eight
- poly=many
- pod or pous=foot
- skalenos=unequal
- skelos=leg
- theo=god
- therm=heat