**Discovering Word Origins**

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| Name: |  | Date: |  |

English includes more words than most languages, but where did all those words come from? Many came from other languages, such as *adobe* (Spanish), *bratwurst* (German), *algebra* (Arabic), *raccoon* (Algonquin), and *tsunami* (Japanese). But other English words have different origins, or starting points.

Discuss each group of words with a partner, thinking about what the words have in common. Then guess how each group came into the English language.

**Group 1**

exam, ad, lab, vet, gym

From Latin

**Group 2**

ring, buzz, boom, hiss, quack

By deriving a word from the sound it describes (*onomatopoeia*)

**Group 3**

twilight, lightning, relight, lighter, prelight

By adding prefixes and suffixes to the root *light*

**Group 4**

airport, playground, newspaper, railroad, football

By combining two words into a new compound

**Group 5**

FBI, MIA, NASA, NAACP, ABC

By taking the first letters of an organization name and making an acronym or initialism