The Big Dam Portage

Name _____

Latin Root: -port- (carry)

Chip and Len packed a big green bag for a camp trip. They wanted to sleep in a tent by the water for a week. They had to transport a lot of food, a pot, and a thick blanket. They put everything into a little boat at the dock. The boat was not very big, but it was safe. Chip sat in the boat. Len sat next to him.

They floated down the long river. The morning sun was bright, and the water was very cool. Len trailed his hand in the river. "This is a perfect trip," Len said with a happy sigh. "We will have so much fun today." They looked at the green trees on the banks.

But soon, the boat bumped into a big pile of logs and sticks. The boat stopped in the water. Chip and Len looked up. A huge dam blocked the river! The dam went all the way across. They could not float past it. The way was blocked.

Thad stood on top of the thick sticks. "Hello down there!" Thad called to them. "I just made this big dam. It is a very important job for me. It stops the water from rushing too fast. Do you like it?"

Len said to Thad with a sigh, "Your dam is very nice, but we cannot pass it. Our boat is stuck, and we need to go down the river. We are going to a camp site."

"You must lift the boat and carry it on the land," Thad told them. "You have to make a portage."

The story goes on →

The Big Dam Portage (page 2)

Latin Root: -port- (carry)

Chip and Len got out of the boat. They tried to lift it up the sandy bank. But the boat was full of their heavy things. The boat was much too heavy to carry. They dropped it with a loud crash.

"We cannot transport this heavy boat on our own," Chip said with a frown. "It is just too much to lift. We need more help."

Thad quickly ran down the dam to help them. "We will put a log under the boat," Thad said. "The log will give us a lot of support."

Thad found a long, round log on the bank. They pushed the log under the little boat. The log helped a lot. Together, the three friends lifted the boat onto their backs and carried it along the forest path, with the log under it for support.

At last, they slid the boat back into the water on the other side. "Thank you for helping us with the portage," Len said.

Thad smiled and waved as the little boat floated away. The friends were on their way again.

Circle or highlight all the words containing the root -port- in the story above. How many did you find?

I found _____ words.