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Bricks

Reading

300

Bricks



E-BOOK



MP3



Bricks
Reading
300 **1**

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The Origins of American Last Names



JACKSON

Think Aloud Read the information below and answer the questions.

Long ago, people had the same last names as their jobs, such as Baker or Smith. Their looks were also used as last names, so they were sometimes called Brown or Young. Where they lived made last names as well, so they were called Hill or Rivers. Others used their fathers' names and got last names such as Richardson or Wilson.

1. Do you know any other American last names? Can you guess their origins?
2. What last names would you like to have?

The Origins of American Last Names

People are sometimes given nicknames. The nicknames can **describe** what they are like. For example, a person who is often angry may be nicknamed “Anger.” What about “Tree?” You might call a tall person “Tree.” But did you know that many last names began as nicknames?

Many American names come from England. By the 12th century, about a third of all English men were named William, Richard, or John. It was hard to **distinguish** one person from another at that time. To **solve** this problem, the English **came up with** different ways of **identification**. They began using last names.



◀ mill



describe v. to explain something with words

distinguish v. to mark as different

solve v. to find an answer for a problem

come up with phrasal v. to create or think of

One way was to call people by their jobs. An **ironsmith** named George would be called George the Smith, or George Smith. If he worked at a mill, his last name could be Miller. People also called others by their parents' names. For example, if Richard had a father named John, Richard could be called Richard John's son, or Richard Johnson.

Some last names were **connected** to where a person lived. If a man lived by a brook, his last name could become Brooks. Others were named by how they looked. Can you **guess** why some people were given Brown or White as their last name? If you lived back then, what might be your last name?

i Other Last Names

Peterson: son of Peter

Cliff: steep hill

Wagner: wagon maker

Jackson: son of Jack

Ashley: ash trees

Reid: red hair

◀ ironsmith



identification *n.* facts that prove who someone is
ironsmith *n.* a person who makes things from iron

connect *v.* to relate or associate
guess *v.* to try to answer without knowing all the facts

Vocabulary Check Up

A Meaning Match each word with the correct meaning.

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| 1. come up with | • | a. facts that prove who someone is |
| 2. identification | • | b. a person who makes things from iron |
| 3. guess | • | c. to create or think of |
| 4. ironsmith | • | d. to try to answer without knowing all the facts |

B Confusing Words Choose the most appropriate words.

1. I don't know how to (describe/despite) the picture well.
2. It's not easy to (distant/distinguish) one twin from the other.
3. We have to (solve/solution) a riddle right now.
4. Please (concept/connect) these cords together.

Comprehension Check Up

A Main Idea Choose the title that best fits the passage.

- a. Why People Have Different Nicknames
- b. How People Were Given Their Last Names
- c. Some English Names from the 12th Century
- d. Some Last Names Based on Different Locations

B Check T(True) or F(False).

1. Some last names come from people's nicknames.
2. The English started to use last names during the 12th century.
3. The last name Smith might be from a location.
4. Richard Johnson might have a father named John.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

C Choose the correct answers.

1. Which is **NOT** mentioned as a basis for last names?
a. father's name b. looks c. hobbies d. jobs

2. Which last name does **NOT** belong in the same category?

- a. Brooks b. Smith c. Miller d. Baker

3. The English created last names because _____.

- a. they wanted to have unique names
b. they came from different backgrounds
c. they wanted to distinguish people by their jobs
d. there were too many people with the same first names

4. **Inference** Which inference shows the correct origin for the following last names?

- a. Jackson - a person's looks
b. White - a person's job
c. Armstrong - a person's location
d. Robertson - a father's first name

Skill Build Up | Main Idea

- Complete the main idea of each paragraph.

Paragraph 1 Last names can be _____.

Paragraph 2 The English used _____.

Paragraph 3 People were called _____.

Paragraph 4 Some names showed _____.

- last names to distinguish people
- by their jobs or their fathers' names
- connected to a person's nickname
- where the people lived or how they looked

Summary Make Up

- Fill in the blanks. Then choose (A) or (B) for the correct main idea.

identification connected came up with guess solve

By the 12th century, many people had the same names. To _____ this problem, the English _____ different ways of _____. They started using last names (A) to distinguish people / (B) to describe personalities. Last names were _____ to people's jobs or their fathers' names, such as Miller or Johnson. People could also _____ the last names of others by where they lived or how they looked, such as Brooks or White.

Practical Reading | Ranking Chart

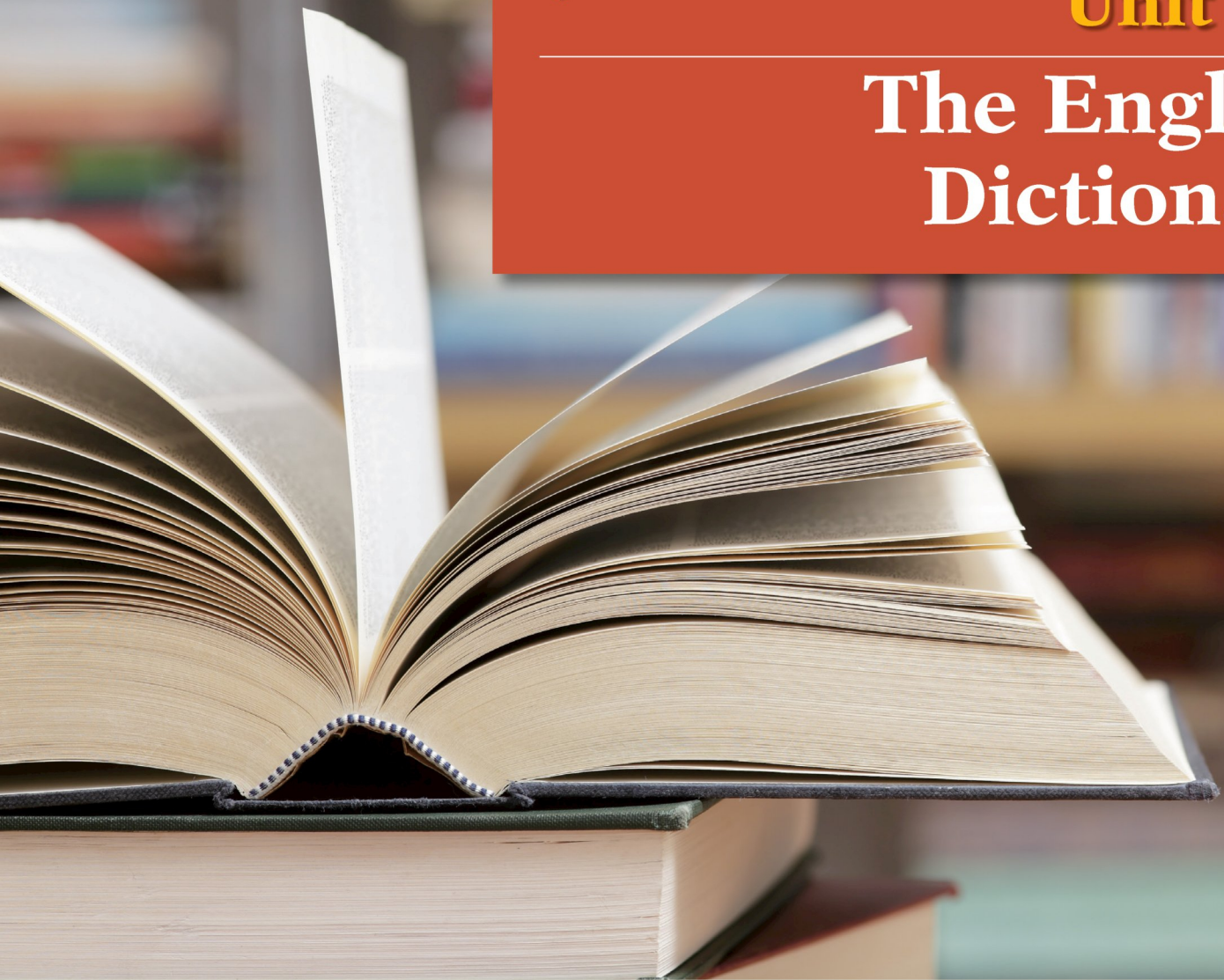
- Look at the chart below and write the answers.

Top Three Names for Newborns in 2015-2017

Year	Females			Males		
	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3
2017	Emma	Olivia	Ava	Liam	Noah	Lucas
2016	Sophia	Emma	Olivia	Jackson	Aiden	Lucas
2015	Sophia	Emma	Olivia	Jackson	Aiden	Liam

1. What is the second most popular female name for 2017? _____
2. What is the most popular male name for 2017? _____
3. What is the third most popular male name for 2015? _____

The English Dictionary



Think Aloud Read the information below and answer the questions.

A dictionary is a study-aid book. It has an alphabetical list of words and their information. It gives many details about a language, such as word meaning, spelling, and pronunciation. Dictionaries typically come in two different versions: English-English or in the English-Learner's first language. An English-English dictionary explains new words in English, while the other explains them in the learner's first language.

1. How many dictionaries do you have?
2. Which dictionary do you prefer: An English-English version or another?