

## WHERE DO NAMES COME FROM?

Some names clearly came from a certain country:

Scotland: Blair, Bruce and Angus.  
Wales: Dylan, Gwyn and Morgan  
Ireland: Dermot, Seamus and Sean  
Japan: Michiko, Noriko and Yuki  
Korea: Hyon-du, Jae-mi, Man-Jung and Su-na  
China: O Lin and Wang Chu  
India: Shanti, Dipu and Devi  
Tibet: Tsering, Diki and Tashi

-----  
-----  
-----  
-----

Choose some more countries and add some names to the list. We will talk about names from different countries a bit more later on.

Some names are words in other languages such as 'Natalie' which is the latin word for 'birthday of the Lord,' that is... Christmas Day. 'Jennifer' comes from the Welsh 'gwenhwyfar,' which means 'fair and smooth' and 'Sophia' is the Greek word for 'wisdom.'

Some girl's names are the names of flowers. Can you name some? (suggestions at the end of the book, page 50)

Other girl's names came from jewels. Guess some. (page 50 for some more)

Some names are the names from the Christian or Jewish Bibles. Can you think of any? (page 50 for some more)

Names such as Omar, Ayesha, Jazim and Jamila are from the Muslim Holy Book, the Koran.

## What Does Your Name Mean?

Some names were the names of famous people who parents admired such as Dwight (Dwight Eisenhower), Winston (Winston Churchill), Dylan (Dylan Thomas or Bob Dylan), Shirley (Shirley Temple). Sometimes the whole name of the famous person is used to give names such as *Martin Luther King* and *George Washington Carver*. Of course Martin Luther King and George Washington Carver became famous themselves. Is there a famous person that you think is really great and so you might like to name a child using that person's name?

Some names have been invented, maybe by putting the father's and mother's choices together like Isabellamatilda (Isabella + Matilda) and Royanne (Roy + Anne), or by authors who wanted an original name for their heroine or hero. Thelma, Mavis and Wendy were names invented by authors.

Names from the months are April, May and June. These were chosen, of course, because the babies were born in them. Do you know anyone called March? Or how about December?

Some names come from nature, particularly native North American names such as Running Brook and Swift Deer. Of course these would be in the native language e.g. Kijika (walks quietly), Doba (peace).

Some names are obviously from film stars such as Shirley (Shirley Temple or Shirley McLaine) and Humphrey (Bogart) even though the real meanings of these names go back many hundreds of years before Hollywood was even thought of.

When African-Americans were slaves on American plantations, the slave owners sometimes gave them very strange names. Because the slave owners didn't want them to have the standard first names of white people, they gave their slaves names like Sylvanee and Pirree and other invented names. The slave owners made no effort to find out the names that the slaves already had when they came from Africa to America.

Later we'll mention how some family names came from first names, but we should also list some first names that came from family names: names such as Byron, Scott, Dale, Clifford, Craig and Dean. Lincoln, Washington and Franklin are found as both first names and family names.

But names don't just come from somewhere, they also often have meanings.