

REACHING OUT

We want to reach out!

As schools return, we look to support each school's efforts to get involved with the rich tapestry of culture and creativity within the borough. Tameside Cultural Services have been looking at how we can best use our years of experience and resources to support schools. We will link in with the Philosophy for Children, as well as the National Curriculum, the schools' recovery curriculum and the Five Ways to Wellbeing: Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give.

Each month, we will share information relating to our education offer as well as giving further ideas and ways to engage with our offer in your classroom. There will be activities from each of the Cultural Services teams and we will take the opportunity to highlight one of our site based workshops as when we are able to, we cannot wait to welcome you back to our sites and great outdoors.



NAMES & OCCUPATIONS

This session is about names, the history behind them and what the meaning of so many surnames. Historically, before surnames people were known by their first name and then often to help identify that person additional nick names or names linked to their work would be used.

Children will have the opportunity to explore and learn more about the importance of a name and the meaning behind so many of our names.

culture
Tameside



NAMES & OCCUPATIONS

REACHING OUT



This activity aims to encourage children to think about the importance of a name and what that name means. There will also be the opportunity for you to share your findings and discuss in more details.

In England alone, there are around 45,000 different surnames – each with a history.

Before surnames, the population wasn't that big so people would rely on using their first name and adding something that could identify the person e.g. a nickname; some physical attribute; a place name; their occupation etc.

It was after 1066 that surnames as we know them today were introduced by the Normans and the father's surname became the fixed name for a family.

New surnames began to appear as immigrants brought names into the country and Scottish, Gaelic, Irish and Celtic names also appeared when the United Kingdom was formed.

The well-off community in medieval times knowing the greater population were unable to read and write, had the 'bragging rights' and developed family crests placing them on their banners, shields, tapestries to show their wealth and also what they stood for. Each part of the crest would mean something and the symbols would mean something to those seeing it e.g. animal representation such as a lion = strength or owl = wise.

The colours used were also symbolic of their power, as did the motto beneath which was mainly written in Latin.

Resources:

Paper

Pen or pencil

For more information or to discuss please email:
archives@tameside.gov.uk



NAMES & OCCUPATIONS



To summarise, the main reason for a surname is to distinguish one family from another and can:

describe a job e.g. TAILOR/TAYLOR.

Show an official status or office e.g. KING, CONSTABLE, JUDGE at one time describe a physical appearance REDHEAD, BIGG, SHORT be taken from nature e.g. FOX, WILDGOOSE or flowers e.g. ROSE, FERN, describe a physical strength e.g. ARMSTRONG indicate the place where the family originated e.g. DERBYSHIRE, RIVERS, WOOD, OLDHAM.

Sometimes you cannot immediately see what the surname means as the name may no longer be used in day-to-day speech.

Can you guess what these surnames mean?

Jagger (answer: A man in charge of packhorses)

Yates (answer: A gateman)

Sawyer (answer: A log cutter)

Baxter (answer: A woman brewer)

During this activity, we are going to concentrate on surnames that relate to occupations, some of which are disappearing and/or have now become a specialised craftsperson's role rather than a job carried out by many.

Objectives

This lesson enables pupils to develop skills:

- Language
- Creative writing
- Community-minded thinking

The activity:

Many books about the origins of surnames are held at Tameside Local Studies and Archives Centre and are available to look at. Check

[https://
www.tameside.gov.uk/
archives](https://www.tameside.gov.uk/archives)

for more information

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NAMES & OCCUPATIONS



Activity 1:

Can you work out what occupations the following surnames describe? Put a ring round your answer and find out if you are right. Find out more about their job was by looking in dictionaries and other reference books. Write down what you learn

Saddler

- A maker of tackle and saddles for horses
- A comedian to cheer up people
- A soap maker

Cooper

- A maker of hen houses
- Someone who works for the Co-operative Society
- A wooden barrel maker

Chandler

- A rope maker
- Maker of candles
- Someone who makes clothes

Fletcher

- Someone who works on a farm
- A maker of arrows
- A hairdresser or barber

Draper

- A hat maker
- A seller of fabrics and textiles
- A clog maker

Smith

- A metal worker in a forge
- Someone who 'shoes' horses
- A blast furnace worker

Answers overleaf. Do you know anyone with these surnames or perhaps, one of them is yours?

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Activity 1:

Answers

Saddler: A maker of tackle and saddles for horses

Cooper: A wooden barrel maker

Chandler: Maker of candles

Fletcher: A maker of arrows

Draper: A seller of fabrics and textiles

Smith: A metal worker in a forge

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Activity 2:

As stated in the introduction, the aristocracy who were able to read and write long before the working class, used symbolism to denote their family's name and/or attributes for all to understand. This was mainly in the form of crests that were painted onto shields or sewn onto flags for everyone to see.

Merchants and shop owners also created signs to advertise in pictures what their occupations were and some reflected their own surname too. Please see the 3 examples.

Here are a list of other occupational names that could have a shop on the high street. Pick three and draw an advertising sign to illustrate what their jobs were, some of them you may have to research? *Remember you will be using symbols to describe the occupation and job.

Draper

Miller

Potter

Carter

Turner

Thatcher

Cutler

If you have a surname that is an occupation, make sure you include it as one of your designs. My surname is Webster meaning

The **surname Webster** is an occupational name for a weaver of cloth.

The **surname Webster** is **derived** from the Old English word webbestre, which originally meant female weaver. Nevertheless, this name came to commonly refer to male weavers in later times.



Butcher



Tailor



Baker



NAMES & OCCUPATIONS



Activity 3:

Below is a plan called a GOAD map and shows all the shops that were on the streets in the centre of Hyde in 1970. Many of them no longer exist. Can you spot any shop names that have an occupational surname?

- * Write this down and explain what the shop owner may have sold in the past based on his name.
- * Are there any other businesses that appear on these streets that you do not know? Write them down and see if you can find out what they sold in 1970.



There are some abbreviations such as:
Drap (Draper),
M/Wr (Menswear),
PH (Public House),
FT/WR (Footwear) and many more

Some answers: Cooper, Smith, Taylor

