

V Where do surnames come from?

1. Find the surnames related to:

- jobs
- places
- family names
- nicknames

Write them down in the chard. You can use English or your own language.

ABC	DEF	GHI
JKL	MN	OPQ
RST	UVW	XYZ



1. Traditional Catalan occupation tiles.

2. Look at these pictures. Use a dictionary to help you. Write the surnames in English and in your own language.

1st picture: An English surnames is _____ and in _____

2nd picture: _____

3rd picture: _____



Surnames in the Middle Ages

In the past, most people knew their neighbours in their villages, so they did not need to have a surname to distinguish between them. But, when the towns and cities got bigger they needed to use names to distinguish a person from another. Surnames or "family" names appeared in Europe about 800 years ago. Most European surnames come from the following sources.

Local surnames

The oldest and most common surnames are related to a **place**. They can be related to many sources such as a country, a town or a county where the person lived –London, French or Bristowe (from Bristol). Other location surnames come from landscape features –Mill, Hill, Wood, and Rivers are some examples of this last kind of surnames.

Family names

Another common source of names is names coming from the **father's** name by simply adding –s or -son. Williamson or Wilson (short form), Peterson, Robson (short form of Robert), Richard's and Fernandez in Spain.

Occupation names

Other surnames came from a person's **job or trade**. Smith, Miller, Taylor, Trader, Cooper, Cook and Baker are some examples. There is a group of surnames derived from the weapons and the occupations in the medieval centuries like Knight, Abbot, Archer and Bowman.

Nicknames

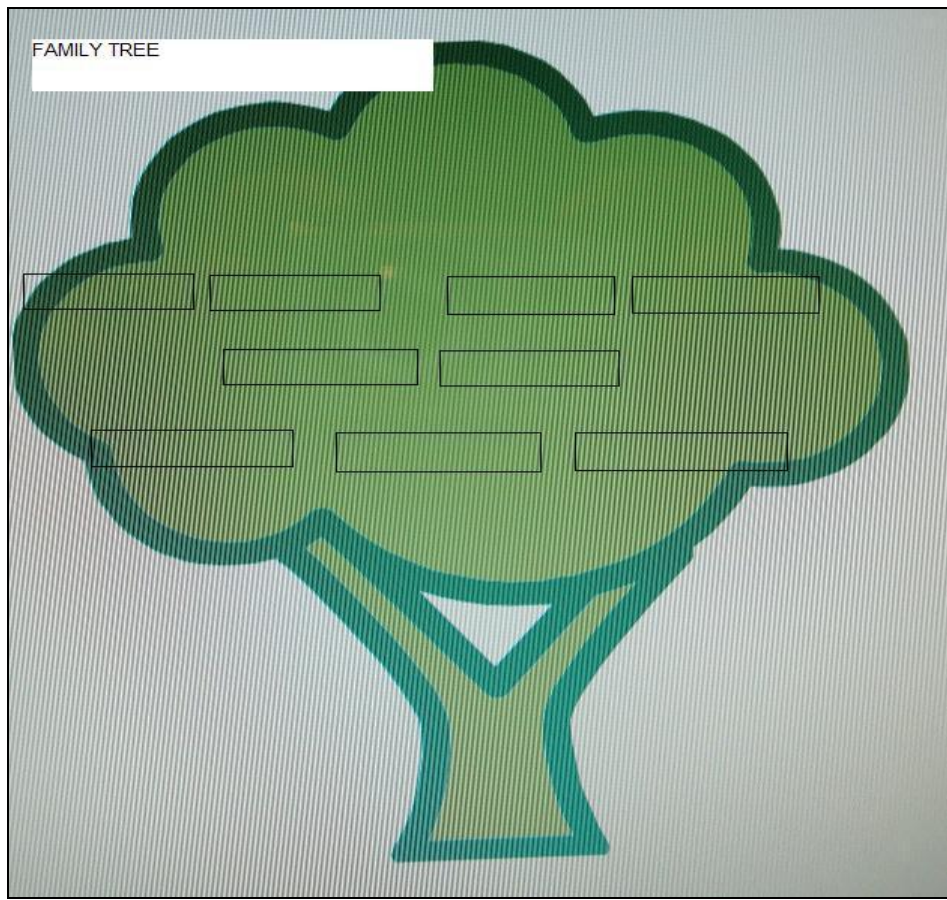
Sometimes **nicknames** became a surname. Names, such as Little or Small because of a person height, or White, perhaps because of a person's skin colour, are very common.

1. Answer the questions

Why did surnames develop?

What do surnames tell us about the person who bears the name?

2. Fill in your family tree including names and surnames.



4. Classify your family/friends/classmates' surnames

place	Meaning in English	job	Meaning
<i>Català</i>	<i>Catalan</i>	<i>Ferrer</i>	<i>Smith</i>
Family		nicknames	

5. If you lived in the Middle Ages think what surnames you would have according to the different types?

E.g. location – where do you live?

Your father's name

Your father's job in English

Possible nicknames you have
