



# What's in a name?



**Do you have a popular name? Do first names have an image?**

## TASK 1

**Do you have a popular name?**

Collect the first names and surnames of all the children in your class. Make a tally of these and in the table below write down your results.

Most popular girls' first name in your class	Most popular boys' first name in your class	Most popular surname in your class

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes the most popular boys' and girls' names for England and Wales for different years.

Most popular girls' and boys' names for England and Wales							
		1904	1934	1964	1994	1999	2008
Males	1st	William	John	David	Thomas	Jack	Jack
	2nd	John	Peter	Paul	James	Thomas	Oliver
	3rd	George	William	Andrew	Jack	James	Thomas
Females	1st	Mary	Margaret	Susan	Rebecca	Chloe	Olivia
	2nd	Florence	Jean	Julie	Lauren	Emily	Ruby
	3rd	Doris	Mary	Karen	Jessica	Megan	Emily

Why do you think they do not give this information for each year?

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How do you think the ONS collects this data?

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How does your data compare to the national results?

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## TASK 2

**Do first names have an image?** Let's do a very simple survey with the children in your class.

Ask everyone in your class to complete the questionnaire in Appendix 1.

Design a tally chart to collate your data. Display your results in a labelled chart and write two sentences to explain your findings.

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Write down who you think would be interested in popular first names.

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### TASK 3

How many people in England and Wales have your surname?

The website <http://www.taliesin-arlein.net/names/> tells you the ranking and the number of people who have your surname (count) in use in England, Wales and Isle of Man.

Below is an extract from their website.

**“WHAT IS IN THIS DATABASE?** This is an extract of an Office of National Statistics database, and contains a list of surnames in use in England, Wales and the Isle of Man in September 2002. The list contains almost 270,000 surnames, shared by 54.4 million people. The entire database contains over a million surnames, shared by 55.9 million people, but names shared by fewer than five people have been excluded from this list. The database was established in 1998, and births are continually added, but the 1.5 million deaths between 1998 and 2002 have not been weeded from the system. The database is also said to include a level of duplicate entries and misspelt surnames, as well as people currently living abroad and temporary visitors to England and Wales. However, experience suggests that multiplying the result for your surname by 0.93 will give a good idea of the living population for your surname.”

For example for the surname Harris

Type Harris into the 'Surname' box and click 'Start search'.



Harris is the 22nd most popular surname in England, Wales and the Isle of Man with a count of 142,164. Multiply 142,164 by 0.93 and you get a count of 132,213 people with Harris as their surname.

Surname	Count	Ranking
HARRIS	142164	22

So taking your first and second name together do you have a very popular name? Devise a scoring system to work out who has the most popular name in your class.

### Extensions

History of surnames.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/familyhistory/get\\_started/surnames\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/familyhistory/get_started/surnames_01.shtml)

# What's in a name?

## Appendix 1

Do first names have an image? Please complete the questionnaire below.

This questionnaire is anonymous (no names) and voluntary.

Do you think the name <b>Jack</b> suggests someone who: Give your views below by ticking one box in each row.	Do you think the name <b>Oliver</b> suggests someone who: Give your views below by ticking one box in each row.
<p>is sporty <span style="float: right;">is not sporty</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>makes people laugh <span style="float: right;">is serious</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>is naughty <span style="float: right;">is well behaved</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>has hair colour (Select one answer)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>black dark light red blonde other brown brown</p>	<p>is sporty <span style="float: right;">is not sporty</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>makes people laugh <span style="float: right;">is serious</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>is naughty <span style="float: right;">is well behaved</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>has hair colour (Select one answer)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>black dark light red blonde other brown brown</p>
Do you think the name <b>Olivia</b> suggests someone who: Give your views below by ticking one box in each row.	Do you think the name <b>Ruby</b> suggests someone who: Give your views below by ticking one box in each row.
<p>is sporty <span style="float: right;">is not sporty</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>makes people laugh <span style="float: right;">is serious</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>is naughty <span style="float: right;">is well behaved</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>has hair colour (Select one answer)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>black dark light red blonde other brown brown</p>	<p>is sporty <span style="float: right;">is not sporty</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>makes people laugh <span style="float: right;">is serious</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>is naughty <span style="float: right;">is well behaved</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>has hair colour (Select one answer)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>black dark light red blonde other brown brown</p>