

What's in a name?

Location

Ground floor, All About Us exhibition

In a nutshell

Input your surname and see the differences in distribution of the surname over time and discover how surnames can show the ethnic variation in an area.

What to do

Follow the onscreen instructions to input a surname or a postcode. Exhibit uses a touch screen for input.

Time Required

KS3 & KS4 4 minutes per student.

What's happening?

Family names are inherited in a similar way to genes. Researchers at University College London are using name data to find out about the changing face of Britain. Where names were first coined and how have they spread over time?

Without an extensive genetic test, our name is one way to tap into our recent history and understand a little about where we originated and who our ancestors are.

There are several hundred thousand different surnames in the UK.

A group at the University of Leicester have found a strong link between surnames and the Y chromosome – both of which are passed from father to son. They are now seeking to apply this knowledge to forensics, showing that DNA evidence could indicate a name where there are no suspects.



Curriculum links

Curriculum links	
KS3	<p>Science - Inheritance, chromosomes, DNA and genes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - heredity as the process by which genetic information is transmitted from one generation to the next <p>English - Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - learning new vocabulary, relating it explicitly to known vocabulary and understanding it with the help of context and dictionaries <p>Mathematics - Statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - construct and interpret appropriate tables, charts, and diagrams, including frequency tables, bar charts, pie charts, and pictograms for categorical data, and vertical line (or bar) charts for ungrouped and grouped numerical data
KS4	<p>Science - Inheritance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - describe sex determination in humans <p>Computing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - develop their capability, creativity and knowledge in computer science, digital media and information technology <p>Geography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The use of a range of maps, atlases, Ordnance Survey maps, satellite imagery and other graphic and digital material including the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS), to obtain, illustrate, analyse and evaluate geographical information. To include making maps and sketches to present and interpret geographical information.

Relates to:

Workshops & Theme Days	Shows	Trails	Other exhibits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNA Codebreakers (KS3 lower) • DNA Detectives (KS3 & KS4) • Forensics Academy day (KS3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue Marvel (Planetarium) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Height chart • Ancient ancestors • How many like me?

