

Name Game

Names can be very interesting. Some last names, also called surnames, tell us where our ancestors came from. For instance, the last name "Kent" tells us that a person's ancestors probably came from England, since Kent is a place in England. Some last names can tell us what our ancestors did for a living, like the name "Cooper." Did you know that a cooper is a barrel builder? A person whose last name is Cooper probably had a long-ago relative who built barrels for a living.

Your first or middle name may be special because you are named after a relative, friend or even a place! Have you ever asked your parents how you got your name? You may be surprised to learn something new!

People's names help historians too. They can use all sorts of resources to find out where people lived, who their family members were and what kind of work they did. Not only can you find out more about yourself this way, but all put together, this information helps us understand more about how Marshall County and the United States grew and changed over time.

- Talk to family members about how you got your first name and what your last name means.
- Or, have an adult help you Google your last name to find out more about it.
- Have some fun with your name. Decide whether you want to use your first or last name and write it lengthwise down the side of a sheet of paper. (See the example.)
- Hunt around your house or yard to find something that begins with each letter of your name. For example, if your name starts with the letter 'P,' you might find a pencil or a pinecone. Write the name of each item next to its letter.
- When you have all of your items, line them up in a row and show others your name in objects.
- Mix the items up and challenge a family member to put them in the right order to spell your name.

SHARE:

- Post pictures of your name in objects on social media with the hashtag **#MCMuseumFromHome**.

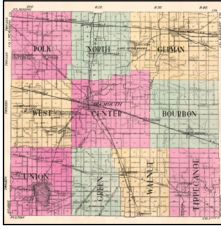
Approximate Time: 30 - 45 minutes

Materials:

- Paper/Pencil
- Basket or tote for collecting items
- Items from around your house

Example from the Marshall County Historical Society:

M



The Marshall County Historical Society has many **MAPS** of the county and its townships. Most of them are very old. They tell a story about the growth of Marshall County.

U



This **UKULELE** is part of the Museum's large collection of musical instruments. A ukulele looks like a very small guitar.

S



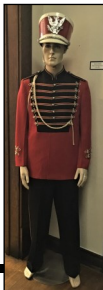
A **SIDE SADDLE** was made for a female horse rider wearing a long skirt. This one is part of the Museum's Livery Stable Exhibit.

E



Before people had electricity, they used a hand-cranked **EGG BEATERS**. The cook held it at the top with one hand and turned the side handle with the other to make the beaters rotate.

U



This **UNIFORM** was worn by a member of a high school marching band. Notice all the buttons down the front of the jacket. It is part of an exhibit at the Marshall County Museum.

M



MAILBOXES like this one were very common a few years ago. Letters could be slipped into the box through a slot near the top. Then a mail worker would open the box every day and take the letters to the post office.