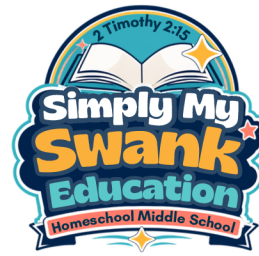




Bible Eponyms Worksheet: Names and Meanings



Name: _____

Date: _____

What is an Eponym?

An eponym is a person—either real or legendary—after whom a place, nation, tribe, or discovery is named.

In ancient times, names were incredibly meaningful. They didn't just identify an individual; they often foretold a destiny or explained the origin of an entire group of people.

Biblical Examples of Eponyms:

- The Man: Jacob was given the new name Israel after wrestling with God.
 - The Eponymous Connection: His twelve sons became the leaders of the Twelve Tribes of Israel, and their descendants formed the nation of Israel.
- The Man: Esau was nicknamed Edom (which means "Red") because he sold his birthright for red stew.
 - The Eponymous Connection: His descendants became the Edomites, who lived in the nation of Edom.

Brands That Stole the Word (Proprietary Eponyms)

Imagine you invent a brand-new toy and call it the "**Super-Bouncer**." Your toy gets so famous that whenever kids go to the store, they don't say, "Hey, look at that bouncy ball!" Instead, they point at any bouncy ball made by any company and call it a "Super-Bouncer."

That is exactly what a **proprietary eponym** is!

It happens when a specific company's brand name becomes so incredibly popular that people completely forget the real name of the item. Instead, they just use the brand name for everything like it.

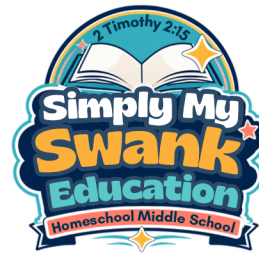
Think about how you talk every day. Do you ever say these things?

- "**Can you pass me a Kleenex?**"
- (The real item is a **facial tissue**—Kleenex is just the company that makes them!)
- "**I need a Band-Aid.**" (The real item is an **adhesive bandage**—Band-Aid is the brand name!)
- "**Let me Google that.**" (The action you are doing is a **web search**, but Google is the name of the specific company!)

When a brand name gets so big that it completely replaces the normal noun in everyday language, lawyers call it "**genericide**." It means the name became "generic." It's the ultimate trophy for a business because it means they won the popularity contest of life!



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Modern-day eponyms are everyday words, brands, or expressions named after a specific person, place, or creator. While biblical eponyms describe nations emerging from a founding ancestor, modern eponyms usually come from inventors, historical figures, fictional characters, or company founders.

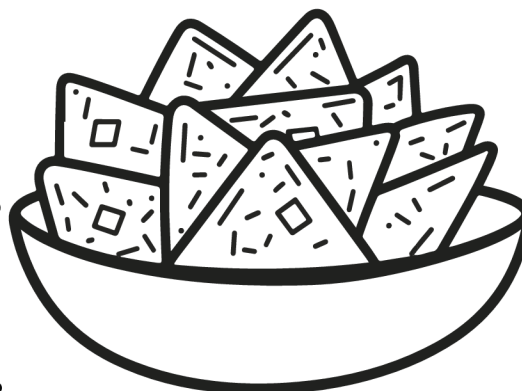
Because these brand names and items are so common, most people have no idea they are actually named after real individuals!

Technology & Everyday Inventions

- Bluetooth: Named after King Harald Bluetooth of Denmark (who lived in the 900s). He was famous for uniting Scandinavian tribes. Just as he brought people together, this wireless technology unites computers, phones, and accessories.
- Jacuzzi: Named after the Jacuzzi brothers, Italian immigrants to the United States who originally invented a submersible pump to treat a family member's arthritis.
- Zamboni: Named after Frank Zamboni, who invented the iconic ice-resurfacing machine in 1949.
- Teddy Bear: Named after U.S. President Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt. While on a hunting trip, he famously refused to shoot a defenseless bear. A toy shop owner saw a cartoon about the story and created a stuffed "Teddy's Bear."

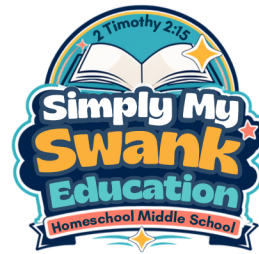
Foods & Drinks

- Caesar Salad: Named after restaurateur Caesar Cardini, who threw together the famous romaine-and-crouton salad at his restaurant in Tijuana, Mexico, in 1924 when he ran low on kitchen ingredients.
- Nachos: Named after a chef named Ignacio "Nacho" Anaya, who invented the quick snack of tortilla chips, cheese, and jalapeños for hungry customers in 1943.





Bible Eponyms Worksheet: Names and Meanings



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Bible Eponyms Worksheet: Names and Meanings

Direct Answer: This middle school worksheet uses fill-in-the-blank verses from the New King James Version (NKJV) to explore biblical eponyms—names of people or places from which a tribe, nation, or language got its name.

Instructions

Read each scripture passage from the NKJV. Use the context of the verse and the Word Bank to fill in the missing eponyms or related terms.

Word Bank

Abraham, Israel, Judah, Edom, Moab

Fill-in-the-Blank Verses

Genesis 17:5

"No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be _____, for I have made you a father of many nations."

Genesis 32:28

"And He said, 'Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but _____, for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.'"

Genesis 29:35

"And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, 'Now I will praise the Lord.' Therefore she called his name _____, and stopped bearing."

Genesis 25:30

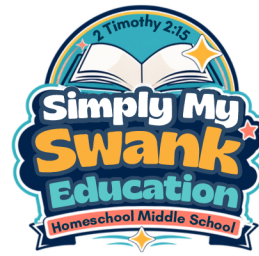
"And Esau said to Jacob, 'Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary.' Therefore his name was called _____."

Genesis 19:37

"The firstborn bore a son and called his name _____. He is the father of the Moabites to this day."



Bible Eponyms Worksheet: Names and Meanings



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Instructions: Use the Word Bank below to solve these everyday word mysteries.

Word Bank

- Boycott | Sideburns | Teddy Bear
1. When a group of people refuse to buy from a business or country to protest something, they start a _____. This word is named after Captain Charles C. Boycott, an English land agent who faced this exact protest in 1880!
 2. Facial hair that grows down the sides of a man's face ahead of his ears is called _____. This style is an eponym flipped around from Civil War General Ambrose Burnside, who famously wore massive facial whiskers.
 3. A popular stuffed animal named after U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt is the _____. It was invented after the President famously refused to shoot a defenseless bear on a hunting trip.

Proprietary Eponyms (Brands That Stole the Noun!)

- The Concept: Imagine you invent a brand-new toy and call it the "Super-Bouncer." Your toy gets so famous that whenever kids go to the store, they point at any bouncy ball made by any company and call it a "Super-Bouncer." That is a proprietary eponym! It happens when a specific company's brand name becomes so popular that people use it as the actual noun for everything like it. When a brand name gets so big that it completely replaces the normal noun in everyday language, lawyers call it "genericide."

Instructions: Match the famous Brand Name / Proprietary Eponym to its True Generic Noun using the choices provided.

Choices:

- A. Facial Tissue
- B. Web Search
- C. Adhesive Bandage
-

1. Kleenex → Real Name: _____

2. Band-Aid → Real Name: _____

3. Google → Real Action: _____