

ETYMOLOGY PROJECT


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Decimate

Correct pronunciation- /'desə ,māt/

Meaning to kill or destroy, or remove a large percentage of. The word decimate can be used in other ways also such as, to destroy or slaughter something. The word itself has a backstory. The meaning can be traced back to the Roman times because the decimation of a military unit was a form of punishment and a way of enforcing law.

The word decimate comes from the Latin word *decem* (meaning ten). When a Roman legion failed to carry out their duties, it meant that one in ten legionnaires would be selected, have their armour stripped from them, and have them beaten to death by their comrades.

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Paleontologist



Correct pronunciation- (pa'le-on-to'l'o-gist)

Meaning to study the forms of existing life in prehistoric times, represented by fossils of animals, plants, animals, and other organisms.

In 1822 the word "paleontology" was invented by the editor of a French scientific journal to refer to the study of ancient living organisms through fossils.

Origin from the French word *paléontologie*.

Possibly originated from the Greek word *palaiois* "old, or ancient"

Richardson

Richardson in origin comes from the Old German name "Ricard", meaning powerful and brave. Richardson can also mean "son of Richard." The name originated in Ireland, but eventually was moved and transferred to England around 1066. The first spelling of Richardson appeared in 1381 in the Yorkshire Poll Tax Returns. The actual recorded spelling of this name was dated back to 1359 in Glasgow, Scotland during the reign of King David 11 of Scotland.

Richardson

Sources

- <http://english.stackexchange.com/questions/11070/decimate-has-it-been-used-in-the-classic-sense-in-modern-writing>
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- <http://www.houseofnames.com/richardson-family-crest>
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