

Stories hiding in surnames

SAY IT ALOUD

mac	MAK	son of
ó	OH	grandson of
de	DEH	of, from a place
ciar	KEER	a man's name

COPYBOOK MOMENT · 6 MIN

Write your own surname and what you think it once meant. If nobody knows, write who you would ask.

Read as written. Pause the board; every pupil writes. Not collected, not marked.

WATCH FOR

- Accents. 1 of this lesson's words carry one (ó). A missing accent is a missing letter.

ANSWERS

1 · The pieces inside the names

- mac — son of
- ó — grandson of
- de — of, from a place
- ciar — a man's name

2 · Break the names open

- Cork — Marsh / Swamp
- Kerry — People of Ciar
- Limerick — Bare Ground
- Clare — The Plain / The Board

3 · Name a place yourself

- Open answer — Any name built from something really there, with its meaning given. Accept English spelling of the Irish piece.