**BaBy**

**NaMeS**



Image from: <http://babiessavingbabies.com/>

**Learning Intention:** Use research to support excellence level statistical writing

**Success Criteria:** Demonstrate statistical insight in statistical writing

**Task One:** Read through the news items given. Highlight any points relevant to features, trends, patterns in baby name data over time, including predicting the popularity of names in the future.

**Task Two:** In pairs write a description (two to three paragraphs) describing the popularity and trends you notice for the names of students in 13MAS, including your predictions of what names may be popular in 2040.

In writing your description you may wish to consider: trends, patterns, features, context, external factors, likelihood to follow pattern, other relevant variables, adequacy of the models used. Your response should identify and quantify, and use appropriate statistical language.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Achievement** | **Achievement with Merit** | **Achievement with Excellence** |
| Investigate time series data | Investigate time series data,  with justification | Investigate time series data,  with statistical insight |
| Show evidence of using each component of the statistical enquiry cycle. | Link components of the statistical enquiry cycle to the context  Referring to evidence such as statistics, data values, trends, or features of visual displays in support of statements made. | Integrate statistical and contextual knowledge throughout the statistical enquiry cycle, which may include:   * reflecting about the process; * considering other relevant variables; * evaluating the adequacy of any models; or * showing a deeper understanding of models. |
|  |  |  |

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/CU1501/S00016/charlotte-and-oliver-top-baby-names-for-2014.htm>

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| Charlotte and Oliver top baby names for 2014 **Monday, 5 January 2015, 11:27 am** **Press Release:**[**Department Of Internal Affairs**](http://info.scoop.co.nz/Department_Of_Internal_Affairs) |  |

Charlotte and Oliver were the most popular names for newborn girls and boys in 2014, according to details released today by the Department of Internal Affairs.

Charlotte, Sophie and Olivia have been popular in recent years, with Olivia last claiming top spot in 2012. Oliver claims the top boys’ spot for the second year in a row, after running second to Jack in 2012.

The full list is available on the [Department of Internal Affairs website](http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Services-Births-Deaths-and-Marriages-Most-Popular-Male-and-Female-First-Names?OpenDocument).

**2014 Top 10 Girls’ Names (2013 place in brackets):**  
1. Charlotte (1)  
2. Olivia (5)  
3. Isla (6)  
4. Emily (2)  
5. Sophie (4)

6. Amelia (7)  
7. Ella (10)  
8. Harper (19)  
9. Sophia (16)  
10. Ruby (3)  
**Top 10 Boys’ Names (2013 place in brackets):**  
1. Oliver (1)  
2. Jack (2)  
3. James (3)  
4. Mason (5)  
5. Liam (6)

6. William (4)  
7. Noah (9)  
8. Lucas (8)  
9. Benjamin (14)  
10. Jacob (13)

The top 100 girls’ and boys’ names make up a small proportion of the more than 12,000 unique first names registered for children born this year, says Jeff Montgomery, Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

“The number of different first names people choose for their child is amazing. While parents have the freedom to be creative with the name of their baby, every name must follow a few simple rules. It should not  
• cause offence to a reasonable person  
• be unreasonably long  
• without adequate justification resemble an official title or rank

"Birth registration is free. Registering your baby as soon as possible is an important step for all parents. Birth registration confirms whether your child is a New Zealand citizen. It gives your child a legal identity and the rights, responsibilities and support services that go with being a Kiwi," says Jeff Montgomery, Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

“Both parents must jointly register the birth of their children. Registration allows birth certificates to be issued. “Both parents must jointly register the birth of their children. Registration allows birth certificates to be issued. They can now be purchased at the same time as the birth is registered or later online using RealMe as well as by phone (0800 22 52 52 in New Zealand) or visiting an Internal Affairs office in Auckland, Manukau, Wellington or Christchurch. Birth certificates cost $26.50 for one or $39.80 for a decorative package of two certificates of the same person.

**Notes**  
The names are recorded in a national register only. We cannot provide regional breakdowns. In general, any name can be registered unless: it might cause offence to a reasonable person; or it is unreasonably long; or without adequate justification, it is, includes, or resembles, an official title or rank. See the[Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Act 1995](http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1995/0016/latest/DLM359369.html)

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/CU1407/S00360/top-20-maori-boys-and-girls-names-for-2013.htm>

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| Top 20 Māori boys’ and girls’ names for 2013 **Wednesday, 23 July 2014, 11:54 am** **Press Release:**[**Department Of Internal Affairs**](http://info.scoop.co.nz/Department_Of_Internal_Affairs) |

23 July 2013

**Top 20 Māori boys’ and girls’ names for 2013**

The Department of Internal Affairs has released the top 20 Māori baby names for 2013 in association with Māori Language Week 2014, Te Wiki o te Reo Māori.

The most popular Māori baby names in 2013 were Nikau for boys and Aria for girls, the Department of Internal Affairs has confirmed.

“The five most popular baby names for Māori girls in 2013 were Aria, Maia, Ariana, Anahera and Anika. For boys, the top five Māori names were Nikau, Ari, Wiremu, Niko and Tamati,” says Registrar-General, Jeff Montgomery.

Boys’ names have represented the biggest change from 2012: “Ari and Niko did not appear in the 2012 list,” Jeff notes. “For girls’ names, Anika has made a large jump from number 18 last year to fifth, and Aria and Maia have swapped first and second place.”

The figures are collected from registrations of birth in New Zealand in the 2012-2013 financial year and do not include children born overseas.

“Although there is no need for children born overseas to register their birth in New Zealand, grandparents with mokopuna born in other countries can encourage the parents to register their pēpe as New Zealand citizens by descent,” Jeff says. “This enables the child to be recognised as an official New Zealander.”

Citizenship by descent is a birthright for all children born overseas who have at least one parent who is a New Zealand citizen by birth or by grant. The only difference between citizenship by descent and any other kind of citizenship is that citizens by descent cannot automatically pass New Zealand citizenship to *their* children born overseas.

“Registering as a New Zealand citizen by descent is very easy – the application form can be downloaded from[www.citizenship.govt.nz](http://www.citizenship.govt.nz/). Parents can also call free 0800 22 51 51 for help with any questions they might have.”

“This is the second time that this analysis has been carried out between the Department of Internal Affairs and Te Taura Whiri I te Reo Māori.

“Te Wiki o te Reo Māori is a great opportunity to release the top 20 Māori boys and girls names,” Jeff adds. “Māori names are unique in the world – they connect to your history and your whakapapa.”

“Māori names are an important way of linking with whakapapa,” says the CE of Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori, Pita Paraone. “We’re pleased that so many whānau are maintaining tūpuna names through the generations. Māori names are a way of connecting with te reo Māori and Māori culture.”

The Department of Internal Affairs reminds parents that it’s important to register the names of their newborns with Births Deaths Marriages and Citizenship. Birth registration is the first official recognition of a baby born in New Zealand and gives newborns rights, privileges and official status under the law.

“It’s really important that the birth is registered as soon as possible”, Jeff says. “It will allow baby to start school, open a bank account and get a New Zealand passport.

The top 20 Māori names for 2012 and 2013 are:

**Boys**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2012** | **2013** |
| 1 | Nikau | Nikau |
| 2 | Wiremu | Ari |
| 3 | Kahurangi | Wiremu |
| 4 | Kauri | Niko |
| 5 | Nikora | Tamati |
| 6 | Tane | Hemi |
| 7 | Tamati | Nikora |
| 8 | Rawiri | Te Ariki |
| 9 | Anaru | Rawiri |
| 10 | Tai | Tane |
| 11 | Manaia | Mikaere |
| 12 | Tama | Manaia |
| 13 | Mikaere | Kahu |
| 14 | Te Ariki | Tangaroa |
| 15 | Ariki | Kauri |
| 16 | Te Koha | Ariki |
| 17 | Hoani | Manaaki |
| 18 | Manawa | Tama |
| 19 | Tiare | Ihaia |
| 20 | Hemi | Matiu |

**Girls**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2012** | **2013** |
| 1 | Maia | Aria |
| 2 | Aria | Maia |
| 3 | Manaia | Ariana |
| 4 | Anahera | Anahera |
| 5 | Ataahua | Anika |
| 6 | Aroha | Aroha |
| 7 | Tia | Kora |
| 8 | Ariana | Tia |
| 9 | Kaia | Kaia |
| 10 | Kahurangi | Ana |
| 11 | Maraea | Ria |
| 12 | Waimarie | Tiare |
| 13 | Tui | Mereana |
| 14 | Amaia | Nia |
| 15 | Miriama | Tui |
| 16 | Awhina | Wikitoria |
| 17 | Hana | Hinewai |
| 18 | Anika | Mahi |
| 19 | Huia | Terina |
| 20 | Mareikura | Mareikura |

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/CU1107/S00095/unusual-baby-names-shunned-despite-celebrity-trend.htm>

|  |
| --- |
| Unusual Baby Names Shunned Despite Celebrity Trend **Tuesday, 5 July 2011, 5:18 pm** **Press Release:**[**Genes Reunited**](http://info.scoop.co.nz/Genes_Reunited) |

• **37% of people would name their children after relatives with traditional names**   
• **Quirky celebrity baby names not so original after all**   
• **Brooklyn and Cruz found in the 19th Century censuses**   
• **Genes Reunited analysed over 750 million names**

Analysis of over 750 million records by **genesreunited.co.nz**, a leading family history website, reveals that celebrities are not as original as they may think when it comes to naming their offspring, as research shows unusual baby names such as Suri, Cruz and Apple have been recorded for over 150 years.

Although celebrities continuously opt for unusual names, a recent poll shows that 79% of people prefer traditional names in favour of something more unusual. Furthermore, half would choose a name simply by whether or not they liked the sound of it. [1]

**It's not unusual…**

David and Victoria’s children’s names have all appeared in the UK censuses before. In the 1881 Census a Brooklyn was recorded and since 1841 someone has carried the name Cruz four times. This is also the case with their brother Romeo, namesake of one of Shakespeare's most famous protagonists, who appears 294 times between 1841 and 1911.

Chris Martin and Gwyneth Paltrow also went down the unusual name route, with a fruity name for their young daughter, Apple. Whilst unheard of in modern times, it was used over a hundred years ago with the name appearing in the 1861, 1871 and 1911 censuses. Apple has grown in popularity, appearing 76 times in the birth records.

For their first daughter together Nicole Kidman and husband Keith Urban went for the seemingly unusual name of Sunday. They may have been unaware that it had previously been used 305 times from 1837 – 2005.

The prize for the most original celebrity baby name goes to Sir Bob Geldof and the late Paula Yates, whose eldest daughter [Fifi] Trixibelle doesn’t appear in any of the Census records. Friends of the Beckham’s, Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes’ daughter’s name Suri has only been registered once, in the 1891 Census. However, Suri has gone on to be registered 67 times in the birth records up until 2005.

The analysis of over 750 million names in the records shows that there are 1000 completely unique names, both forename and surname, highlighting that there has always been an appetite for unusual names. Some of the unique names registered include Flossy Nairn, whose brother was called Ora Nairn, as well as Willington Trites and Glesson Whatman[3].

**Keeping up with the Joneses**

Despite society often following the lead of celebrity culture, the records have shown that millions of people like to stick with tradition. John and Mary take the crown for the most popular names ever recorded in the UK, with over 8 million Marys and over 10 million Johns.

**Top 10 boys’ and girls’ names of all time**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Girl** | **Boy** |
| **1** | Mary | John |
| **2** | Elizabeth | William |
| **3** | Sarah | Thomas |
| **4** | Ann | James |
| **5** | Margaret | George |
| **6** | Jane | Robert |
| **7** | Alice | Charles |
| **8** | Hannah | Joseph |
| **9** | Emma | Henry |
| **10** | Ellen | David |

**Vicki Dawson, Head of Genesreunited.co.nz, says**: "If you are interested in family history or are simply looking for inspiration for a potential baby name, our records with over 750 million names going back centuries, provide a fascinating insight through history and maybe some great ideas."

“It seems to be a celebrity trend to name offspring unusual names, but we have found throughout our extensive record collections this is not a new trend. We have seen what was once an uncommon name, such as Daisy, slowly being incorporated into what we now see as traditional. Our research has found that 79% of people would prefer a traditional name, so maybe in the future ‘Cruz’ or ‘Suri’ will be seen in this way?”

**-ENDS-**  
**Notes to Editors**

[1] Figures taken from a poll of 947 Genes Reunited subscribers

[2] Number of times the names appear in the censuses

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Census year** | | | | | | | |
| **Forename** | **c1841** | **c1851** | **c1861** | **c1871** | **c1881** | **c1891** | **c1901** | **c1911** |
| **Brooklyn** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Cruz** | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| **Romeo** | 13 | 18 | 16 | 28 | 38 | 54 | 52 | 75 |
| **Apple** | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| **Trixibelle** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Memphis** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Suri** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

[3] Below is a list of other celebrity baby names as they appear in the censuses

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Census year** | | | | | | | |
| **forename** | c1841 | c1851 | c1861 | c1871 | c1881 | c1891 | c1901 | c1911 |
| **Anais** | 5 | 3 | 2 | 20 | 10 | 9 | 12 | 22 |
| **Annais** | 2 | 3 | 12 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| **Apple** | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| **Bluebell** | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 20 |
| **Brooklyn** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Cruz** | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| **Daisy** | 1 | 5 | 32 | 187 | 4225 | 27578 | 58437 | 77434 |
| **Fifi** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| **Lennon** | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 11 |
| **Lourdes** | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| **Maddox** | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| **Madonna** | 2 | 1 | 14 | 8 | 11 | 12 | 23 | 22 |
| **Memphis** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Rocco** | 1 | 1 | 6 | 14 | 20 | 15 | 30 | 23 |
| **Romeo** | 13 | 18 | 16 | 28 | 38 | 54 | 52 | 75 |
| **Saffron** | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| **Shiloh** | 3 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 1 |
| **Suri** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| **Tallulah** | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Trixibelle** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

ENDS

**About Genes Reunited**  
Genes Reunited was launched in 2003 as a sister-site to the Internet phenomenon Friends Reunited. Since then it has grown to become one of the leading genealogy websites in Australia & New Zealand.

It marked a revolution in genealogy and ancestry by combining them with Internet social-networking. Members are able to build their family tree by posting it on the site and investigating which ancestors they share with other members. They can also search historical records such as census, birth, death, marriage and military records.

Genes Reunited has over 11 million members and over 750 million names listed. One new name is added to the site every single second.

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/CU1404/S00051/baby-name-trends-show-new-zealand-in-need-of-a-royal-tour.htm>

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| Baby Name Trends Show New Zealand in need of a Royal Tour **Wednesday, 2 April 2014, 3:59 pm** **Press Release: [McCrindle Research](http://info.scoop.co.nz/McCrindle_Research)** |

**Baby Name Trends Show New Zealand in need of a Royal Tour**

While the pulling power of celebrities has always had an influence on baby naming trends, the Royal family as the original celebrities have traditionally influenced baby names more than any other.

And this remains the case in Australia with William having held the number 1 title for the last two years and the most popular boy’s name in 4 states (and a close #2 nationally). Additionally, since the birth of Prince George, this name has jumped 11 places in Australia and is now more popular than at any time over the last 4 decades.

However in New Zealand the younger royals have not had the same influence on baby naming trends with William down to #4, Harry down to #40 and George has dropped since the royal birth from 26th to 35th. Even the girl’s name Kate has dropped since the Royal wedding from 71st to 81st currently.

**Based on these trends it seems that New Zealand is even more due for a Royal tour than Australia if the baby name trends are anything to go by.**

More information on the Top 100 baby names for boys and girls in New Zealand is published in our [**Baby Names 2014**](http://www.mccrindle.com.au/resources/Baby-Names-Australia-2014_McCrindle.pdf) report.

**New Zealand’s Top 10 Baby Names**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Rank | Boys | Girls |
| 1 | Oliver | Charlotte |
| 2 | Jack | Emily |
| 3 | James | Ruby |
| 4 | William | Sophie |
| 5 | Mason | Olivia |
| 6 | Liam | Isla |
| 7 | Samuel | Amelia |
| 8 | Lucas | Ava |
| 9 | Noah | Isabella |
| 10 | Thomas | Ella |

|  |
| --- |
| <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/CU1307/S00447/royal-prince-to-inspire-1400-extra-georges.htm> Royal Prince to Inspire 1,400 Extra Georges **Thursday, 25 July 2013, 4:24 pm** **Press Release:**[**Ancestry.com.au**](http://info.scoop.co.nz/Ancestry.com.au) |

***Royal naming trend reveals there will be an additional 1,400 Georges born next year in the UK – Ancestry.com.au***

***• The popularity of a royal baby’s first name increases by an average of 32% the year after they’re born***  
***• Royal naming trend would make George the fourth most popular name***   
***• Historically, Prince Andrew had the biggest impact on baby names***

George is set to be the fourth most popular baby name of 2014 in the UK, with an additional 1,400 predicted to be born next year compared with 2013. If New Zealand continues its trend of taking baby name inspiration from the UK Royals, there could be a sharp rise in the popularity of George locally.

The findings from **Ancestry.com.au**, Australia and New Zealand’s number one family history website[1], reveal a royal naming trend, with the birth of a royal baby typically increasing the popularity of that name by almost a third (32 per cent) the following year, equating to an average of 1,400 additional babies in the UK born with the same royal name.[2]

With 4,340 George’s born each year, this trend would indicate a total of 5,740 being born in 2014 – pushing it from 12th position to the fourth most popular baby name for a boy.

The royal naming pattern was uncovered through analysis of historic birth indexes available on the site, detailing every baby born in England and Wales between 1837 and 2005. The number of babies born with the same name as a royal baby was compared with the year that royal baby was born, and the following year. Every royal from **King Edward VII** (born in 1841) to **Princess Eugenie** (born in 1990) were included in the study. *See table 1 for a full break down.*

The research uncovered that:

**• Prince Andrew’s** birth was found to have the biggest impact in actual terms, with the number of ‘Andrews’ born in 1961 increasing by more than 5,500 compared to the year of his birth (1960);

• In percentage terms, the birth of **Zara Phillips** saw the biggest rise, with the number of ‘Zaras’ increasing by 92% after she was born;

• Other royals to have a significant impact on birth rates include **King George VI** (increasing the popularity of that name by 1,431 the year after his birth), **Princess Margaret** (3,760), **Princess Anne**(1,507), **Peter Phillips** (2,607) and **Prince William** (2,581);

• The youngest royals, **Prince Harry**, **Princess Beatrice**, and **Princess Eugenie**, all had only a small impact in actual numbers, however in percentage terms the increase was significant (expanding the popularity of the names by 55%, 37% and 69% respectively);

• On average male royal babies were found to have a bigger impact in real terms (resulting in an average of 1,664 instances of the name the following year, as opposed to 1,010 for females), yet female royal babies had the biggest proportional impact (increasing the popularity of the name by 43 per cent, compared to 24 per cent for boys). An explanation for this could be that female royals tend to have more unusual names – like Eugenie and Zara.

**• King George III** was the first monarch of Australia, and the last monarch in America.

In fact, the only royal born in the past 170 years whose name decreased in popularity after their birth was **King George V**, with the number of ‘Georges’ born in 1866 falling by more than 7,000 compared to the year before. But rather than revealing that the monarch was unpopular, it is thought to be down to the impact of London’s last Cholera pandemic[[3]](imap://duty%40scoop.co.nz@imap.scoop.co.nz:143/fetch%3EUID%3E.INBOX%3E630111" \l "_edn3) on the population.

Derived from the Greek name Georgious, which means farmer, George has been a British staple name for centuries and is the third most common name for English monarchs (6 times) since 1066 after Henry (8 times) and Edward (8 times).

Brad Argent, Content Director, from Ancestry.com.au comments: “*The countless birth, marriage and death indexes available at Ancestry.com.au are not only provide key records for family history research, but allow us to look back over the pages of history and observe some interesting trends.*

“*Prince George of Cambridge not only has a name steeped in royal traditional but shares a moniker with the country’s patron saint - fitting given how his arrival has united the country over the past few days.”*

If you’re interested in finding out about the traditions and history of your own family names as well as much more, Brad Argent will be at the Family History Fair next weekend, 2-4 August at the Vodafone Events Centre, Auckland.

**Table 1. The impact of a royal birth on the popularity of that name**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ROYAL** | **Birth year** | **Babies born with that name the year of birth** | **Babies born year after birth** | **Actual / percentage increase** |
| King Edward VII | 1841 | 8,930 | 9,661 | +731 / 8% |
| King George V | 1865 | 33,824 | 26,437 | -7,387 / -21%\*\*\* |
| King Edward VIII | 1894 | 22,221 | 22,926 | +705 / 3% |
| King George VI | 1895 | 41,653 | 43,084 | +1,431 / 3% |
| Queen Elizabeth II | 1926 | 5,839 | 6,209 | +370 / 6% |
| Princess Margaret | 1930 | 17,695 | 21,455 | +3,760 / 21% |
| Prince Charles | 1948 | 1,974 | 2,941 | +967 / 49% |
| Princess Anne | 1950 | 4,234 | 5,741 | +1,507 / 36% |
| Prince Andrew | 1960 | 12,534 | 18,081 | +5,547 / 44% |
| Prince Edward | 1964 | 1,597 | 1,624 | +27 / 2% |
| Peter Phillips | 1977 | 8,381 | 10,988 | +2,607 / 31% |
| Zara Phillips | 1981 | 166 | 320 | +154 / 92% |
| Prince William | 1982 | 11,058 | 13,639 | +2,581 / 23% |
| Prince Harry | 1984 | 695 | 1,076 | +381 / 55% |
| Princess Beatrice | 1988 | 231 | 317 | +86 / 37% |
| Princess Eugenie | 1990 | 39 | 66 | +27 / 69% |

*\*\*\* Reduction caused by Cholera pandemic of 1866*

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/life-style/63914471/Hottest-baby-name-trends-for-2015>

# Hottest baby name trends for 2015

Last updated 14:46, December 7 2014

WHAT'S IN A NAME: Oh look at little Beach, ain't he cute?

[Classic baby names](http://www.stuff.co.nz/life-style/life/63735448/Mohammed-tops-UK-list-of-popular-baby-names) may still reign supreme in New Zealand but brace yourselves ... baby naming's about to get creative.

Gender twists, colourful words, and monikers related to the latest pop-culture sources are among the hottest trends for naming newborns in 2015, according to [**nameberry.com**](http://nameberry.com/blog/baby-name-trends-2015-the-15-hottest). Here are its picks for the trends of next year.

**Biggest Big Picture Trend: Defining names**

When is a name not just a name? When it's a word name. Word names let you define your child's identity to the world, and nameberry.com is expecting them to be all the rage in 2015.

From recent celeb choices of Titan and Royal, to more badass options like Rowdy and Rogue or virtuous picks of Saint or Noble, the possibilities are endless. River and Sage are nameberry.com's top picks if nature's more your thing, while the likes of Buzz or Lazer seem firmly settled for some in the cool kids camp.

**Trendiest Trend-Related Trend: The big finish**

Name endings are hot right now, with "bella" for girls or "ett" for boys expected to lead the way well into the new year. With that in mind, expect the increasing number of Isabellas to be joined by the likes of Arabella, Mirabella and Rosabella.

Meanwhile, for the boys, nameberry.com predicts Emmetts will be welcoming the likes of Beckett, Everett and Bennett. Don't despair if none of these rock your world though, "er" and "s" are also considered trendy endings apparently, as in Harper and Miller, or Atticus, Silas and Zacharias.

**Newest Gender-Bending Trend: Boys on top**

In the past, as soon as unisex names became widely used for girls, parents abandoned them for boys. Well, not in 2015. According to nameberry.com, that trend's set to be reversed, with statistics showing boys are already reclaiming popular unisex names such as Alexis, Casey, Devon, Elisha, Jamie, Jordan, Kai, Milan, Robin, Rory, Rowan, Sidney, Tatum, and Tracy.

**Hottest Direction In Baby Naming: Heading south**

Sorry Kim, but along with Snow and Frost, it seems North is out in the cold for 2015 with baby names heading south. Nameberry.com's picks include month names June and August, Southern US states Georgia, Carolina, Alabama, Louisiana, and Tennessee, as well as coastal names like Ocean, Dune and even Beach.

**Now vowel: Can I get an 'O'?**

Milo, Theo and other "o"-ending boys' names have been hot for a while, and now the girls are getting in on the act with nameberry predicting the likes of Juno, Marlow, Harlow, Margo(t), Willow, Indigo and Shiloh will all prove popular.

**Consonant Of The Moment: X marks the spot**

"X" gives any name an element of cool, but if it's at the front of the name all too often it also gives lots of people problems pronouncing it. The solution? Names that end with "X" instead. Think along the lines of Felix, Hendrix, Beatrix and Lennox and you won't go too far wrong.

Alternatively, you could try putting the X in the middle. Nameberry.com expects the rise of names such as Axel, Baxter, Dexter, Maxine, Pixie and Roxana to reflect this trend, but be warned ... this may result in seeing a few Jaxsen or Jaxsons along the way too.

**Trend Most Likely To Cross The Ocean: Keep it snappy**

As with so many things in life, you can't go too far wrong with short and simple. Considered by many as the little black dresses of baby names, these are the stylish options that never go out of fashion. Popular in Europe, the top contenders for girls include Isa, Eva, Ida, Lou, Lia, and Tess, while for boys nameberry's picking Ben, Finn, Jack, Leon, Max, and Tom.

**Most Colorful Trend: Exotic hues**

Violet, Blue and Scarlett are all tried and tested, but get ready for a colour explosion in 2015 with more extreme shades coming into play. Think Indigo, Azure, Cerulean, Magenta, Fuschia, Crimson, Lavender, Lilac and even Mauve.

**Coolest Middle Name Trend: I need a hero**

Lots of parents still like the tradition of using family favourites for middle names, but nameberry.com found more and more people are also looking to heroes for naming inspiration. These could include the name of a favorite author, musician, athlete or a political hero. And why not use the middle name to give your child someone to look up to? ￼ **￼**

**Trendiest New Food Name: Eat your greens**

As well as being king of superfoods, Kale is also topping trends for food-related baby names, taking over from Juniper, Clementine, and Apple. Other vegie-inspired names to look out for, according to nameberry, include Lettice, Romaine and even Cale.

**Ethnic Names Most Likely To Rise: Ach aye the noo**

Irish names - from Brian and Ryan to Liam and Declan - have been popular with baby namers globally for years. But now parents are looking towards other Celtic choices, and particularly the Scottish. Nameberry.com predicts Fiona, Flora, Fenella, Greer, Isla and Elspeth as top picks for girls, while Finlay, Angus, Duncan, Ewan and Lachlan are all popular for the boys.

**Trend Trying Hardest To Have It All: Faux-i-sex**

While some unisex names are used fairly evenly between girls and boys (see above), there are others that appear unisex but in reality are distinctly gendered. For trying perhaps a tad too hard to have the best of both worlds, nameberry highlights Addison, Bailey, Kendall, Kennedy, McKenzie, and Sloane for girls, and Cameron, Grayson, Jayce, and Kellen for boys.

**H/T Nameberry.com**