1. NAMES AS CARRIERS OF MEANING

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Names that are a reflection of their original conditions, when the region was first settled, be it by nomadic or permanent inhabitants. Names could express:

- physical conditions - soils, vegetation, fauna, spectacular weather conditions, etc. (e.g. the isle of Skye (UK).

- the object itself - new town, market place, castle, dam (e.g. Neustadt (Germany), Newcastle (UK), Neukirchen (Germany) or Amsterdam, see below).

Amsterdam started as a fishing village on the river Amstel in which a dam was built to prevent flooding:
Amstel + dam > Amstelredam > Amsterdam

- the history of the object (an event, an important person that visited the place or the person that originally settled the place

✏ Excercise 1: try to find the original meaning of place names in your area.