

IDIOM WEB TREK

A. INTRODUCTION

Visit the web site below to research the origins -- or etymology -- or idioms and expressions, then answer the questions below.

ETYMOLOGY:

http://www.fun-with-words.com/etym_phrases.html

B. STUDENT QUESTIONS

1. You may have participated in an icebreaker activity with your class at the beginning of the school year. What is the origin of the expression, "to break the ice"?

2. What does "without rhyme or reason" refer to? When does its usage in English date to?

3. "To make no bones about it" has what original meaning? At what time did it come into use?

4. After reading about "crocodile tears", do you feel these tears show genuine grief or distress?

5. What is the legend behind crocodile tears?

6. When is the first known record of "it's raining cats and dogs"? Who made this reference?

7. What does it mean to "throw the book" at someone?

8. What does "Make hay while the sun shines" mean?

9. What are its literal origins?

10. What is commonly thought to be the origin of the phrase "mad as a hatter"?