

Chapter 2

Word families, roots and origins

Introduction

In this chapter the children will be helped to appreciate that the English language contains many words that originate from other countries and that the language is constantly changing. English was brought to Britain by the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes who crossed the North Sea from Denmark and Germany. Words of Greek and Latin origin have been a part of the language since ancient times, whereas European and words from further afield represent more recent additions to the English language. By recognising common root words and endings from other languages the children will begin to build up their knowledge of the spellings of a range of 'word families'.

In this chapter

Word roots page 28	To identify root words, derivations and spelling patterns in order to extend vocabulary and provide support for spelling.
Words from other languages page 33	To recognise that many words in English have been adopted from other languages. To begin to use their knowledge to identify such words and their spellings.
Assessment page 38	Activities and ideas to assess knowledge of word families.

Poster notes

The origins of English (page 27)

The poster shows a table of words that have been borrowed by the English language from a range of countries and continents. Display the poster next to a world map and encourage the children to fix string to the words and link them across to the place on the map that they have come from. Add to the display with other lists of words from different countries as the children find out more examples.

