**Named After ?**

**The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air,**

**and to every animal of the field.**

***(Genesis 2:20)***

**The large furniture company named Ethan Allen Inc. was founded in 1932 and chose its name because of its line of early-American furniture. It has no other connection to the historical figure Ethan Allen. *(The Daily Chronicle)***

**Altoids: These peppermint lozenges in the little tins were introduced in 19th-century London not as breath fresheners but as a remedy for indigestion. One ad run by Smith & Company, the manufacturer, even made it clear that having dinner without Altoids on hand was courting gastric disaster: "One or two taken after meals will stop any poisonous fermentation." Altoids were originally sold through pharmacies. Smith & Company tacked the scientific-sounding oid suffix (from the Greek, meaning "in the form of") onto their product and the alt is said by the manufacturer to derive from the Latin word for "change." A more logical source would be the Latin altus or "high," making Altoid equivalent to "the highest or best oid." Still made in Britain, Altoids were introduced here in the 1980s. Their popularity is due in part to a quirky ad campaign in 1995: "Nice Altoids!" *(Evan Morris, in Reader's Digest)***

**Although many others had been in America before him, Amerigo Vespucci claimed he had discovered the New World. He named it "Amerigo," after himself. *(Charlotte Lowe, in Useless History Fact-O-Pedia, p. 1)***

**Avon, the cosmetics giant, got its name because the founder was fond of Shakespeare, so the company was named after Stratford-on-Avon. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 64)***

**In 1920 the first “Baby Ruth” candy bar was sold. It is named after President Grover Cleveland’s daughter -- not the legendary baseball player Babe Ruth. *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 87)***

**Developed by a chemist and first peddled to taverns during the 1880s, Bar Keepers Friend today puts a shine on stainless steel, porcelain, ceramic and other household surfaces. The cleanser is manufactured by SerVaas Laboratories in Indianapolis, Indiana. *(American Profile magazine)***

**The Beatles were named by John Lennon. He was a fan of another group – Buddy Holly and the Crickets. Lennon decided he also wanted an insect name for his group, and he finally settled on beetles. But he changed the spelling of beetles to Beatles. (Charles Reichblum, in Knowledge in a Nutshell, p. 83)**

**Birds Eye: In 1923 Clarence Birdseye froze rabbit and fish fillets in candy boxes, using dry ice. Soon he established the General Seafoods Company to further market his foods. A few years later, he sold the company to General Foods, which changed the brand name "Birdseye" to "Birds Eye." Clarence favored the change noting that "Birds Eye" was the original form of his family name. An ancestor had saved the life of an English queen by shooting an attacking hawk in the eye. *(Evan Morris, in Reader's Digest)***

**Author Ian Fleming gave the name James Bond to his spy hero after seeing it on the cover of a book of West Indian birds, by ornithologist James Bond. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 116)***

**The Bronx in New York City is named after the Bronx River. The Bronx River is named after the first European settler in the Bronx – the Scandinavian-born Jonas Bronck, who settled there in 1639. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 159)***

**In 1938, Warner Brothers writer Ben Hardaway directed a short film featuring a very sneaky rabbit. The cartoon was called Porky's Hair Hunt, but the bunny that starred in it didn't have a name. So, the best creative minds in the business got together and dubbed the up-and-coming star "Happy Rabbit." But Hardaway, whose nickname was Bugs, also directed the next short starring Happy Rabbit. As the animators drew up early images for the film, one of them labeled a sketch of the rabbit "Bugs' Bunny," to make it clear that the drawing was part of Hardaway's project. The label was mistaken for the name of the character, and soon enough, all of the animators were calling Happy Rabbit "Bugs Bunny." The tiny error created an icon, and, as they say at Warner Bros., that's all folks. *(David Wanczyk, in Mental Floss)***

**One of Hollywood's favorite comedians got his name because of a fall. Buster Keaton tumbled down the stairs when he was a tot and Houdini saw him. The great magician said "that's a real buster," and the name stuck. Keaton made a career of falls in comic bits. When he died X-rays showed he had broken every bone in his body at one time or another. But Keaton never wore a cast and once reported to work with a broken back! *(Ripley's Believe It or Not! Book of Chance, p. 14)***

**Campbell’s soup cans were colored red and white after the Cornell football team in 1898. In 1900, the gold medallion was added to represent the medal the soup was awarded at the Paris Exhibition in that year. *(Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 240)***

**In the seventeenth century, Johann Wilhelm got married, but the happy day nearly was ruined when a wheel on the wedding coach started to give way. A ten-year-old boy leaped to the rescue, attached himself to the wheel, and became a human hub. To this day the symbol of Dusseldorf is a cart-wheeling youngster. Children of the city entertain tourists by flipping all over the landscape for a few pfennigs. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 23)***

**Champagne was invented by a Benedictine monk. He was Dom Perignon. He was put in charge of the vineyards at his monastery in 1668, and developed sparkling wines. Champagne got its name because the monastery was in the Chanpagne section of France. (Charles Reichblum, in Knowledge in a Nutshell, p. 187)**

**When the Hoberg Paper Company people first made their soft toilet tissue in 1928, one of their employees said it was “charming.” The company decided to leave the g off charming, change the pronunciation, and there you have it – simply Charmin. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 46)***

**A few rudimentary private cars were made by such designers as Rickett in 1838-60, and Grenville in 1875, but these resembled three-wheeled railway locomotives, required the service of a full-time stoker (hence the word chauffeur) as well as a driver, and weighed two-and-a-half to three tons. *(Michael Sedgwick, in Early Cars, p. 10)***

**Those Native Americans known as the Creeks were so called for no other reason than that they built their villages along streams. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Deviled eggs are so-called because when they were first made, they were covered with such hot pepper that it supposedly reminded one of the fires of hell. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 47)***

**Table doilies are named after a 17th-century draper named Mr. Doiley from London. *(The Daily Chronicle)***

**In Eleva, Wisconsin, winter set in before settlers could finish painting the word elevator on the village’s prominent grain elevator. Newcomers assumed the unfinished word was the village’s name and so it stuck. *(American Profile magazine)***

**Where was the Ferris wheel invented? Fort Genoa, Nevada. That's where George Washington Ferris got the idea while watching an irrigation wheel. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Fig Newtons: Only the cookies made by Nabisco are, legally speaking, Fig Newtons. All the rest are just "fig bars." One popular theory says that Fig Newtons were named after Isaac Newton. Alas, no such luck. The first Fig Newtons were baked in 1892 by the Kennedy Biscuit Works of Massachusetts. Back then, baked goods were often named for the local bakery that made them. So the folks at Kennedy Biscuit, which later merged into what would become Nabisco, looked to the locale for ideas. Fig Newtons thus immortalize the Boston suburb of Newton, Massachusetts. *(Evan Morris, in Reader's Digest)***

**The Gap clothing store chain opened in 1969 in San Francisco and was named by its owners, Donald and Doris Fisher, after the “generation gap”. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 50)***

**On August 11, 1919, the Green Bay Packers football team was founded. A meat-packing company paid for the first uniforms in return for the team being named the "Packers." *(The Daily Chronicle)***

**On January 5, 1889, the word hamburger first appeared in print in the Walla Walla Union, a newspaper from Walla Walla, Washington. The name comes from a German food called hamburg steak -- which means "from Hamburg," not that it contains ham. *(The Daily Chronicle)***

**Henry Heinz chose the company's famous slogan "57 Varieties" in 1892 after he saw an advertisement for "21 varieties of shoes" in an elevated train car in New York. (Charlotte Lowe, in Fact-O-Pedia, p. 143)**

**The name Hollywood, California, is famous all over the world – but Hollywood got its name in a very ordinary way. According to the Smithsonian News Service, when Hollywood was settled in 1887, two people who moved there were Mr. and Mrs. Horace Wilcot. One day, Mr. Wilcot planted some holly bushes – and Mrs. Wilcot then named the area “Hollywood.” Little could they have known then that the name “Hollywood” would become known just about everywhere. (Charles Reichblum, in Knowledge in a Nutshell, p. 54)**

**Hush puppies are so named because hunting dogs in the South were fed fried cornbread balls to keep them quiet. *(Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 234)***

**Football historians claim the quarterback’s exclamation of “hut” for the snap stems from Army drills where the drill sergeant would count off “Hut-2-3-4.” *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 55)***

**The K in K-Mart stands for Kresge, from Sebastian S. Kresge, who founded the store in Detroit in 1897. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 64)***

**Have you ever wondered how some of our favorite lodging facilities got their names? Both Motel 6 and Super 8's names were based on the chains' original room prices: $6 and $8.88, respectively. Holiday Inn was christened for the 1942 Bing Crosby film of the same name. The founders of the Ramada Inn chose that name because it translates into "shady resting place." *(Ryan Toepfer, in Tidbits)***

**The Los Angeles Lakers name comes from Minnesota, the “Land of a Thousand Lakes,” where they originally played. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 50)***

**Marietta, Ohio, is named for Marie Antoinette. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 93)***

**Milk Duds: At least they didn't call them Milk Screw-Ups. When Chicago candy maker F. Hoffman & Company set out to market chocolate-covered caramels in the early 1900s, he decided to aim high and make them perfectly spherical little balls. Hoffman's chefs soon discovered that their perfect little chocolate caramel balls always came out as little chocolate caramel lumps. Hoffman decided to market this lumpy candy anyway. The company picked the name Milk Duds, referring to the high milk content, and less-than-perfect shape. Turns out the public wasn't looking for geometric perfection. Milk Duds, now made by Hershey Foods, were an immediate hit. *(Evan Morris, in Reader's Digest)***

**Monterey Jack cheese originated in Monterey, California, and was marketed by a guy named David Jacks. *(Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 231)***

**A map maker, unfamiliar with the name of an Alaskan community, wrote "name?" on the map. His draftsman misread the notation and entered the word "Nome" at that location, literally putting Nome on the map. *(The World Almanac of the USA, p. 26)***

**A Baltimore pharmacist named George Bunting developed a skin cream in 1914 and sold it as "Dr. Bunting's Sunburn Remedy." One day a buyer said, "Your sunburn cream sure knocked out my eczema." Bunting had been looking for a year-round name for the cream, and found it at that moment. By combining "knocks" and "eczema" to make "Noxema." *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The antibiotic nystatin, which is used chiefly to treat fungal infections such as thrush, is named after New York State, where it was developed. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 75)***

**On September 8, 1664, New York was given its name. Previously controlled by the Netherlands and known as New Amsterdam, the Dutch Governor Peter Stuyvesant surrendered the settlement to an English naval squadron. It was renamed New York in honor of the Duke of York, who had organized the mission. *(The Daily Chronicle)***

**Where did writer William Sydney Porter get his nom de plume “O Henry”? He’d once worked in a pharmacy and noted there that writings of a French chemist named Ossian-Henry were indexed under “O. Henry.” (L. M. Boyd)**

**When Oreo cookies were first made, they were mound-shaped. The name comes from the Greek word “oreo” which means “hill.” *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 63)***

**Frank Baum, who wrote The Wizard of Oz, chose the name of the wizard this way: While writing the book, Baum was gazing around his office, trying to decide what to call the wizard. Baum saw the letters on his three file drawers across the room. One file read “A-G,” the next “H-N,” and the third “O-Z.” And “Oz” it became. (Charles Reichblum, in Knowledge in a Nutshell)**

**In 1921, Moe Radavitz, Emanuel Rosenfeld, Maurice Strauss and Graham Jackson pooled their money to open an auto supply store in Philadelphia. They needed a short name for their business, because the storefront was only a few feet across. Inspired by a shipment from Pep Valve Grinding Compound, the men became collectively known as the Pep Boys. Radavitz soon left the business to his three partners, who gained fame under the names Manny, Moe & Jack. (John R. Groesbeck, in Tidbits)**

**The American football is referred to as a “pigskin” because footballs were originally made of pigs’ bladders wrapped in pigskin. *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 92)***

**Pringles: When it came to naming their new potato snack product in the late 1960s, the marketing folks at Proctor & Gamble thought, Why not look at names that already exist? Pulling out the phone book for their hometown of Cincinnati, Ohio, they began skimming. In time, they hit the jackpot. In the suburb of Finneytown, they found a street named Pringle Drive. Pringle ... Potato. That was it! Perfectly round Pringles Potato Crisps hit America in 1968, stacked in a distinctive cylindrical can. Today they come in a range of flavors, and there are even Pringles-inspired tortilla chips. Torengos, which are perfectly triangular and come in -- what else? -- a long triangular can. *(Evan Morris, in Reader's Digest)***

**Quakers have nothing to do with Quaker Oats. In 1877, a partner in the Ohio-based Quaker Mill Company thought that a Quaker on their logo would convey a wholesome image. *(Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 230)***

**Edy’s Grand Ice Cream created the flavor Rocky Road after the stock market crash of October 1929. The company hoped the flavor’s whimsical name would give people something to smile about. *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 97)***

**The Rolls Royce Corporation was founded in 1904 by two Englishmen, Charles Stewart Rolls and Sir Frederick Henry Royce. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 64)***

**On February 23, 1905, Paul Harris founded the Rotary Club in Chicago. The club got its name because the members rotated meeting places. A national association was formed in 1910. *(The Daily Chronicle)***

**A U.S. veterinarian named Daniel Elmer Salmon in 1885 said it wasn't he, but one Theobald Smith who actually discovered that sickening bacteria. But it was named "salmonella," anyway*. (L. M. Boyd)***

**As it happens, Sara Lee was the daughter of Charles Lubin, owner of a chain of bakeries in Chicago in the 1930s. Lubin tested his recipes on her, and eventually renamed his business The Kitchens of Sara Lee. Aside from appearing in a few television commercials, Sara Lee hasn't played a role in the company. She's now a grandmother and a philanthropist living on the East Coast. *(Evan Morris, in Reader's Digest)***

**A great Cherokee chief was Sequoia, who invented the Cherokee alphabet among other things. Child of a white man and an Indian woman, he grew up with the Indian tribe and eventually gave his name to the most noble of all great trees, the giant sequoias of California. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 44)***

**The Snickers bar, introduced in 1930 by M&M Mars, is named after the Mars family’s favorite horse, Snickers. *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 86)***

**Theodore Roosevelt was an outdoorsman and a hunter, but he also loved animals. On one occasion, he was hunting with some of his aides and a group of reporters. For several days the newspapers reported that the president had failed to shoot any game and depicted this in a political cartoon. Finally, Roosevelt’s aides found a bear, which they cornered and presented to him as a trophy. However, Roosevelt felt compassion for the bear and refused to shoot it. A Brooklyn storeowner, Morris Michtom, saw the drawing of Roosevelt and the bear cub and was inspired to create a new toy. He created a little stuffed bear cub and put it in his shop window with a sign that read “Teddy’s bear.” The toys were an immediate success, and Michtorn founded the Ideal Novelty and Toy Company, which still exists today. (Jim Romeo, in Business’s Most Wanted, p. 131)**

**Tootsie rolls were introduced in 1896 by Leo Hirshfield; he named them after his daughter, whose nickname was “Tootsie.” *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 85)***

**Twinkies are made with standard ingredients -- milk, eggs, etc. -- and are baked. Aficionados point out that the little golden tube cakes were developed during the Depression by Jimmy Dewar, manager of the Hostess bakery in Schiller Park, Illinois, at a time when inexpensive treats were hard to come by. But Dewar still needed a name. That's when divine intervention (to hear Twinkies fans tell it) appeared. While on his way to show his bosses his new creation, Dewar spotted a billboard for "Twinkle Toe Shoes." And just like that, the name Twinkies was born. *(Evan Morris, in Reader's Digest)***

**Uppercase and lowercase letters are so named because in the time when print had to be set in individual letters, the capital letters were stored in the case on top of the case that stored the lowercase letters. (*The Daily Chronicle)***

**The Utah Jazz name stems from when they played in New Orleans. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 50)***

**Wall Street’s name stems from colonial times, when a wall was built around Lower Manhattan to protect cattle from Indian raids. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 98)***

**Dave Thomas, the founder of Wendy’s, named the fast food restaurant after his daughter. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 56)***

**A “wiki” is a website that uses collaborative software that allows users to create and edit web pages. Ward Cunningham developed the first wiki and put it on the Internet in 1995. He chose the term “wiki” after riding on the Wiki Wiki Shuttle buses that run between the terminals at the Honolulu International Airport. In Hawaiian, wiki means “quick,” and wiki, wiki means “very quick.” *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 48)***

**It wasn't the best thing since sliced bread. It was the first sliced bread sold nationally, period. Consumers had long been slicing bread themselves (the alternative being to simply gnaw on the loaf), and any store-bought bread before the late 1920s was unsliced. But even Wonder Bread wasn't sliced at first. Created in 1921 by the Taggart Baking Company of Indianapolis, Indiana, the new bread was almost ready for market when the question of a name arose. Vice President Elmer Cline happened to attend a balloon race one day. The sight of dozens of brightly colored hot-air balloons in the sky filled him with, as he later said, "wonder." Wonder Bread was born without further ado. Cline, in fact, was so impressed with the sight of those balloons that he covered his new product's wrapper with red, yellow and blue balloons (still the Wonder package design today). *(Evan Morris, in Reader's Digest)***

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