

NARRATIVES AND NAMES

Activity Items

The following items are part of this activity and appear at the end of this student version.

- Item 1: Top 15 Most Popular Last Names by Rank
- Item 2: Top 15 Last Names With the Largest Frequency Increase

Student Learning Objectives

- I will be able to explain what the U.S. Census Bureau does, what type of data it collects, and what the data help explain.
- I will be able to reflect on my own name using descriptive details as part of a creative writing exercise.
- I will be able to use a graphic organizer to identify a topic, determine the series of events I want to tell (and in what order), develop characters, note important details, and describe a problem and solution in preparation for writing a narrative.

7. What can we learn by collecting information on last names that are the most popular and that are rising the fastest in frequency in the United States?

8. Predict what you will see the next time the Census Bureau gathers this type of information about names.

Pause here for guidance from your teacher.

Learning how to use a narrative graphic organizer: Watch carefully as your teacher uses a graphic organizer to visually organize thoughts and ideas related to the story you just heard.

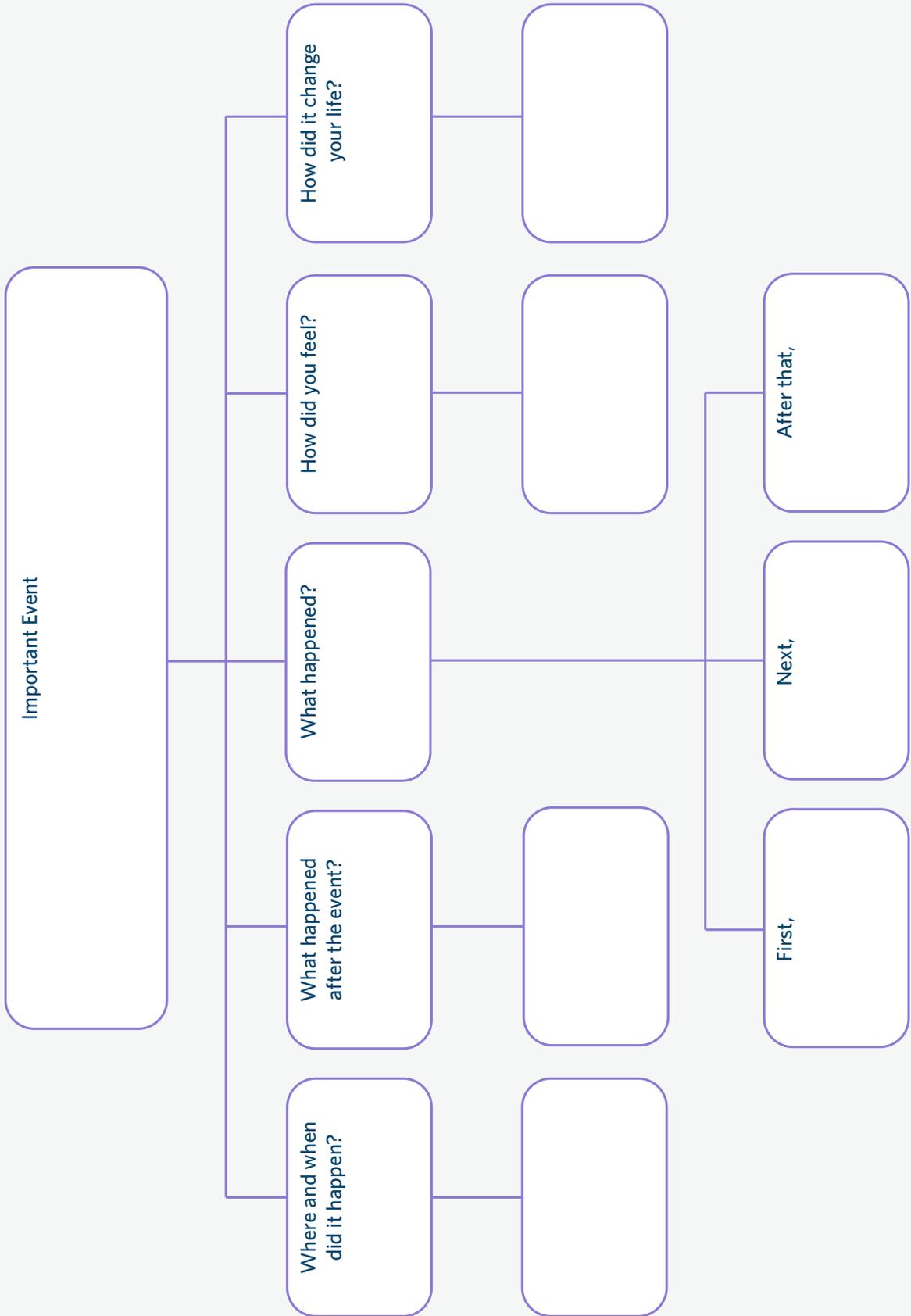
Pause here for guidance from your teacher.

Narrative prewriting: Think of a story you want to tell that is related to names. It can be a true story based on something that happened in your life, or you can completely make it up. The story should include a beginning, middle, and end. It should also have characters and a problem and solution.

Now use the graphic organizer below to brainstorm your story. (Eventually, your teacher will ask you to actually write your story based on what you put in your graphic organizer.)

1. Start in the middle where it says “Important Event.” What is the main story you want to tell about names?
2. From there, move on to the bubble in the center—“What happened?”—and complete the bubbles for “First,” “Next,” and “After that.”
3. Then move to “Where and when did it happen?” and fill it in with some details.
4. Then, answer “What happened after the event?” followed by “How did you feel?” and “How did it change your life?”

Brainstorming an Important Event

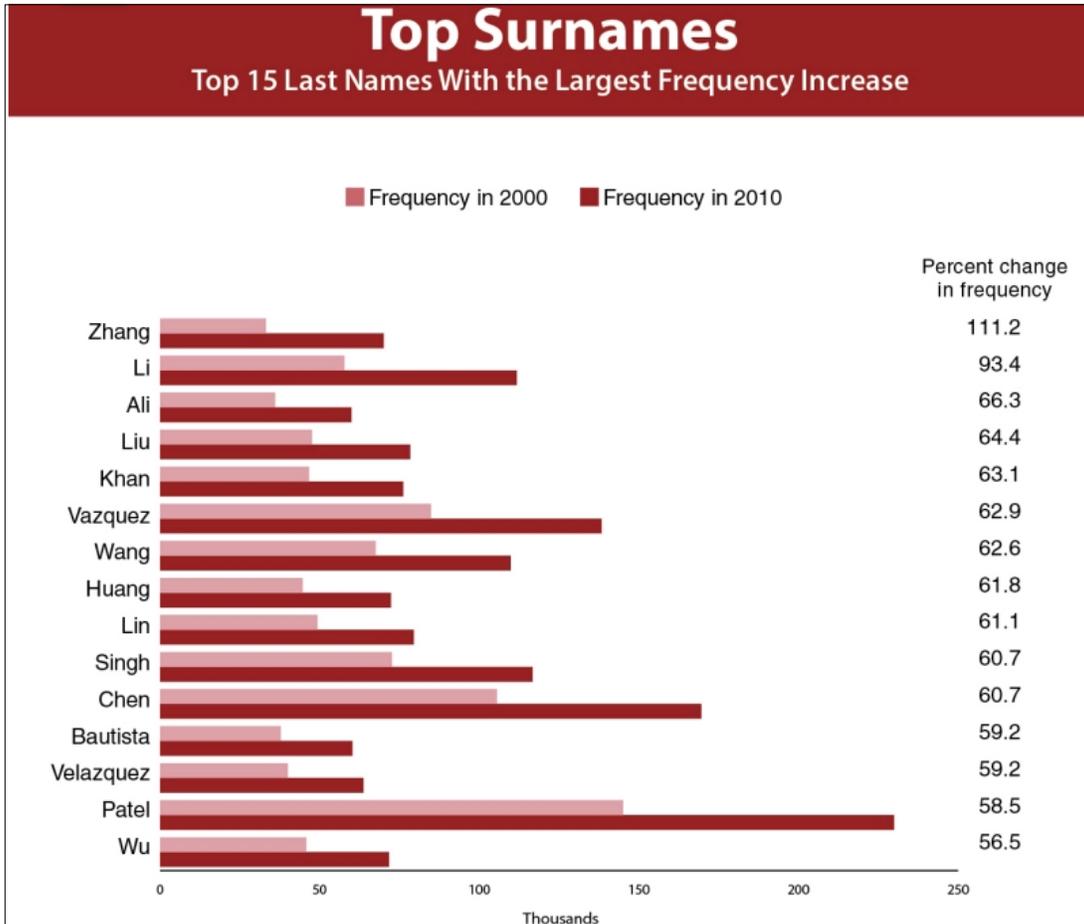


Item 1: Top 15 Most Popular Last Names by Rank



www.census.gov/library/visualizations/2016/comm/cb16-tps154_surnames_top15.html

Item 2: Top 15 Last Names With the Largest Frequency Increase



www.census.gov/library/visualizations/2016/comm/cb16-tps154_top_surnames.html