

NAME _____ DATE _____

WHAT MY NAME MEANS TO ME

Explore the origin of your name with a family member. For example, were you named for a close relative, friend, celebrity, or special occasion? Is there a cultural tradition regarding the naming of babies in your family?* Discuss these questions with a parent or guardian. Write your full name on the lines below.

First Name _____

Middle Name _____

Last Name _____

1. What is the origin of my name? _____

2. What cultural traditions contributed to your selection of my name?

In the greatly acclaimed saga, *ROOTS*, by Alex Haley, the main character was taken from his homeland of Africa and renamed by slavemasters. He found it difficult to give up his real name of Kunta Kinte. In the story, he was beaten as the slavemasters tried to force him to take the name "Toby." They called him "Toby," but he never forgot who he was. Describe what your name means to you on the lines below. What would you do if someone tried to force you to change your name? Share your comments with your peers.

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