

Is That English?!

Code: EL1, MID: LA, SS

The military men documented their experiences by writing letters home and keeping diaries or journals. Some of the words they used are no longer in common use.

Directions: Have the students read the letters and quotes found on the following page and then have them answer the following questions:

A. Name another word that was used for pantaloons which we still use today? _____

B. The term Scalawag is still used today. What does it mean? _____

What language does it come from? _____

C. What does the term chasms mean?

How old is it? _____ What language does it come from? _____

D. Discuss the term Garrison. What language does it come from? _____

What did it mean? _____

E. Many words in English come from other languages, especially French, German, and Dutch.

The word doleful comes from doel. What does it mean?

What language is doel? _____

F. We use many old words whose origins we no longer know. Many new words come into the English language, especially in this age of technology. List some new words on the block today.

G. Will American English be the same in the year 2100 as it is today? Why?

Selected Quotes

"I sat for some time with my pantaloons and drawers rolled up and my boots off (of course), with my feet and legs up to the knees in that cool water, and with so much of my body in the water, of course, I was soon cool as a cucumber." Dr. John FitzGerald, July 29, 1877

"It looks, in fact, like a piece of old garrison flag." Dr. John FitzGerald, July 29, 1877

"The Indians were allowed to pass through this valley by the scalawag population that bought their stolen horses." Dr. John Fitzgerald, July 29, 1877

"It is doleful living along this way without John and not knowing when he will come home. I don't know how much longer I can get along." Emily FitzGerald August 12, 1877

"He cleared away the fallen trees, made bridges across chasms, and, when there was time, by side-digging or walling with fragments of the rock, he improved portions of the break-neck trail." General O.O. Howard

Answer sheet

Is That English?!

Code: MID and HIG: LA, SS

The military men documented their experiences by writing letters home and keeping diaries or journals. Some of the words they used are no longer in common use.

Directions:

Have the students read portions of the letters and quotes found on the following page and then have them answer the following questions:

A. Name another word that was used for pantaloons which we still use today? **Trousers.**

B. The term scalawag is still used today. What does it mean? **It means a rascal or reprobate. It is used disparagingly.**

What language does it come from? **Scalloway, Shetland.**

C. What does the term chasms mean? **A deep cleft or crack in the earth's surface. An abyss or narrow gorge.**

How old is it? **At least 3,000 to 5,000 years old.** What language does it come from? **Greek.**

D. Discuss the term garrison. **A Garrison is a military post, especially one permanently established. Garrisoned means to supply a post with troops.**

What language does it come from? **Middle English gariso(u)n, protection, fortress, from Old French garison, from g(u)arir, to protect, from Germanic. To protect.** What did it mean in French? **To protect.**

E. Many words in English come from other languages, especially French, German, and Dutch. The word doleful comes from doel. What does it mean? **It means mournful or sad.**

What language is doel? **Old English.**

F. We use many old words whose origins we no longer know. Many new words come into the English language, especially in this age of technology. List some new words on the block today.

List new words. For Example:

Internet

digitize

cyber

Compact Disc

road rage

yadda yadda

video

fax

yadda

prioritize

e-mail

network

zit

psych

inter-face