

SPORTS' TEAM NAMES

No matter where you live, you are sure to see the names of sports teams in newspapers and to hear about them on television and radio. Whenever you see or hear a name, ask yourself if you know how the team got its name.

Your name _____

Teacher _____



Why do you think the sports teams listed below got their names? If you don't know, use any reference material that will help you. Explain your answers below and state what references you used. Answers to questions appear on the next page (but don't peek!). Can you explain other teams' names? Use another sheet of paper for them.

Baltimore Orioles: A baseball team named after Maryland's state bird, the Baltimore Oriole. Why was this oriole chosen to be the state bird? _____

Dallas Mavericks _____

Detroit Pistons _____

Green Bay Packers _____

New York Knickerbockers _____

Orlando Magic _____

Philadelphia 76ers _____

Pittsburgh Steelers _____

San Diego Padres _____

Utah Jazz: _____

ANSWERS TO SPORTS' TEAM NAMES

Baltimore Orioles: This bird “wears” the orange and black colors of Lord Baltimore, one of the founding fathers of Maryland. Find a picture or make a drawing of a Baltimore Oriole and paste it below.

Dallas Mavericks: A maverick is an unbranded range animal, especially a calf that has become separated from its mother, traditionally considered the property of the first person who brands it, from Sam Maverick's practice of not branding his calves; one who refuses to abide by the dictates of, or resists adherence to, a group; a dissenter.

Detroit Pistons: Pistons are part of a car's engine and Detroit is the car-making center of our country.

Green Bay Packers: There was a large meat packing industry here.

New York Knickerbockers: Knickerbockers, the old Dutch settlers of New York, wore a style of pants gathered at the knees, often abbreviated to “knickers.” Golfers often wear knickers.

Orlando Magic: Disney's Magic Mountain® is in Orlando.

Philadelphia 76ers: The Declaration of Independence was signed in Philadelphia in 1776.

Pittsburgh Steelers: Pittsburgh, once known as the Steel Capital of the World, still has a large steel industry.

San Diego Padres: San Diego was first settled by the Spanish missionaries, called padres (fathers).

Utah Jazz: This team was originally formed in New Orleans, Louisiana, a city described as the birthplace of jazz. The team moved from New Orleans to Utah. Utah is not known for jazz music..

PLACE BALTIMORE ORIOLE GRAPHIC BELOW