

Homeschool Children's Challenge

Pronunciation

Correctly pronounce the following proper names (given in order of increasing difficulty). Pay particularly careful attention to the handling of the four L's in a row.

Ralph
Thames
Rhosymedre
Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch

Please refrain from practicing while the orchestras are playing.

Etymology

Explain to your parents the connection between the word *barcarolle* and the barges of George I's Thames trip. Trace the origin back to the Coptic word *bari*, through the Greek *βαρις* to the Latin *barica*. Be sure to distinguish between the Vulgar Latin words *barga* and *barica*. (Also, reassure your parents that Vulgar Latin *is* an OK subject for a homeschooling family to talk about!)

Arithmetic

At one point Vivaldi's contract with *Ospedale della Pietà* in Venice required him to write two new concertos per month. Vivaldi started at the *Ospedale* in 1703, and he died in 1741. If he composed two new concerti per month during this entire period, estimate to one significant figure the fraction of concerti by Vivaldi that have now been lost.

History

Write a detailed account of the Russian-Circassian War of 1763-1764 and the Circassian diaspora in the Balkans and Middle East.

Spelling

The national spelling bee in Washington DC is only a month away. In the last decade the national spelling bee has been won several times by homeschoolers, and homeschoolers have always placed in the top ten. In case this year's competition includes Welsh words, be sure to have your parents check that you have correctly memorize the spelling of *Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch*. Note the four L's in a row about 70% of the way through the word.

Internet Domain Names

Prior to October 1999 it was not possible to register .com domain names longer than 26 characters (including four for the .com suffix). Now domain names can be 67 characters long. Discuss the implications for the domain name:

Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch.com