**<Mistaken Names>**

James Cook was an 18th-century English sea captain who explored much of the South Pacific. According to legend, Cook was exploring Australia when he saw a funny-looking animal. It was hopping, and it had a pouch and a big tail. When he asked one of the locals what the anima was, the man replied. “Kangaroo.” This was a native phrase meaning, “I don’ know.” Cook mistook this for the name of the animal, and his error has been with us ever since.

There is a similar story about the Spanish explorer, Francisco Fernandez de Cordoba. He explored Mexico in the 16th Century. He asked a native to tell him the name of the place where he was. The native said, “Yucatan.” In the native language, that meant, “I don’t understand you.” Cordoba mistook it for a place-name, and that part of Southern Mexico has been called Yucatan ever since. People tell the same kind of story about the town of Nome, in Alaska. They say that it comes from the local phrase, “Ka No Me,” meaning, “I don’t know.”

All these stories are interesting, but are they really true? Although the stories might not be true, everyone enjoys funny stories about (A) .

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**Q. How did the new names make in the text?**

**Comprehension Questions**

**1. What’s the meaning of the underlined part in paragraph 1?**

a. we will never forget his error

b. others have made the same error

c. we recently learned about his error

d. we still use the name for the animal

**2. Cordoba believed “Yucatan” to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .**

a. the name of a villager

b. an old name for Mexico

c. a local name for the place

d. a word meaning “I don’t understand you.”

**3. What is the best phrase for the blank (A) ?**

a. strange-looking animals

b. the history of languages

c. the “I don’t know” phrases

d. the original meaning of the names.

**Searching for other mistaken names**

Find a mistaken name and origin or legend of that. It’s no matter whatever you choose. (Food, animals, places, etc). Fill in the blanks, working with your group.

**Name:**

**Type of a thing:**

**Legend:**

**Supplementary Materials – Word Review**

**Complete each sentences using the words from the word box.**

native error legends mistook explore

1. He is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of California.
2. The best way to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the countryside is on foot.
3. The accident was caused by human \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. I often \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ her for her mother on the phone.
5. She’s writing a book about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of giants.

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