

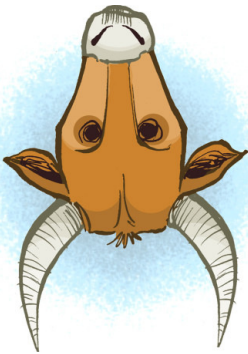
WANT TO DO ETYMOLOGY ...

THEN YOU START WITH THE

ALPHABET !!!

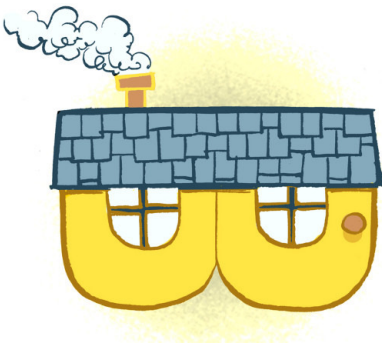
The alphabet we know today takes its modern 26-letter shape in the 16th century. Author Michael Rosen devotes 400-plus pages to topsy-turvy history of our letters in his entertaining “Alphabetical: How Every Letter Tells A Story” dedicating a chapter to each of the 26 letters. Here’s a brief look.

<http://nypost.com/2015/02/08/the-stories-behind-the-letters-of-our-alphabet/>



A

Turn the “A” upside down and you’ll have a good sense of its original shape and meaning when it was introduced around 1800 BC. Resembling an animal’s head with antlers or horns, the original meaning of the letter in ancient Semitic was “ox.”



B

Flip “B” on its belly and you see a home — complete with a door, a room and a roof. Now you have some idea of why 4,000 years ago in Egypt, “B” (which sounded like our “h”) was a hieroglyph that meant “shelter.”



C

The first “C” shape emerged in Phoenician and stood for a hunter’s stick or boomerang. The Greeks renamed it “gamma” and when they switched to reading from right to left to left to right in 500 BC, they flipped the shape. As the letter spread to Italy, it took on a more crescent shape, and the C as we know it today was born.

What Words change over time and etymologists track down this change and evolution. Compare etymology to history, archaeology and genealogy and you may feel you are already on familiar ground. What words would we be using? Any word of our choosing, say for instance - words like nice, gay, ciao and Croydon.

Where Group co-ordinator's home (Mario, 67 York Road, ME15 7QU, t 01622 672280). On-street parking.