

Meanings of Names

An activity of "What we can learn from Singapore street names".

Did you know that Singapore has over 3,200 streets with names that reflect its rich and colourful history? Read "What we can learn from Singapore street names" (page 18, *What's Up* May 2026) to find out more about the meaning behind these names.

A) Using the *What's Up* story, match the meanings with their corresponding words.

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|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| a) paya ▪ | ▪ 1) swamp |
| b) bukit ▪ | ▪ 2) back of a river |
| c) Toa Payoh ▪ | ▪ 3) wide swamp |
| d) Chulia ▪ | ▪ 4) hill |
| e) Paya Lebar ▪ | ▪ 5) big swamp |
| f) Sumang Walk ▪ | ▪ 6) road named after sentul fruit |
| g) Hougang ▪ | ▪ 7) to weave clothing |
| h) Sentul Crescent ▪ | ▪ 8) road named after Wak Sumang |
| i) Neythal ▪ | ▪ 9) river |
| j) sungei ▪ | ▪ 10) Tamil Muslim immigrants |

B) Find out the meaning of your name and write it in the space below.

My name: _____

The meaning of my name: _____

C) Approach three or four friends and family members. Ask them for the meanings of their names and note them in the table below.

Name	Meaning (in which language)

Does knowing the meaning of someone's name help you to connect with that person better? Elaborate.

