

European Day of Languages

The key to the crossword puzzle with some fun facts

DOWN:

1. OCHRE

The word ochre originates from the Greek word *okhros*, meaning “pale”. The colour was named after clay pigment consisting of clay, sand, and ferric oxide.

2. MAHOGANY

This colour was named after mahogany trees, but the wood from these trees is not actually mahogany colour.

3. PAYNE’S GREY

William Payne was a British painter whose paintings often had a lot of this type of grey in them. In Croatian and German, this colour is also known as “antracit” or “Anthrazit”. It originates from the Greek word *antrakites*, meaning “coal-like”, since anthracite is actually a type of coal.

6. FUCHSIA

Fuchsia is a hot pink colour named after a flower of the same name. In 1859 the French managed to mix it in a lab, but they renamed it the same year into MAGENTA to celebrate their victory in the battle of Magenta.

7. BEIGE

This is a French word meaning “natural wool”.

9. PURPLE

Purple has long been a royal colour, even since the times of the Roman Empire. The word originates from Latin and Greek and has been used in English since the late 900s AD.

ACROSS:**4. MAGENTA**

Magenta is a hot pink colour named after Magenta, an Italian town. See more information under "FUCHSIA".

5. PEARLESCENT

This is actually not a colour, but a coating. It consists of millions little transparent pieces that each reflect light in all the colour of the spectrum. Do you know how shellfish make pearls?

8. TURQUOISE

This colour got its name from French. In French, *turquoise* means "Turkish" because Turkish merchants sold turquoise gemstones from Iran in the 17th century.

10. BURGUNDY

This colour was named after Burgundy wine. Burgundy is a region in France famous for fine wine. In French, German and Croatian this colour is called bordeaux (bordo), after Bordeaux wine which is from another region in France (Bordeaux) famous for fine wine.

Source: Wikipedia.com