

“THE MOTHER TONGUE” VIDEO LINK

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7UG6vHXArIk>

“THE MOTHER TONGUE” VIDEO

1. Who was William Jones?

He was a British judge and linguist who became a diplomat and travelled a lot to Asia (18th century).

2. What did he discover?

English words had a common origin shared with other Indo-European languages.

3. Which scientific method did he use and why was it so important?

The comparative method, studying the nature of language changes. Linguists were able to reconstruct languages in relation to each other.

4. Write down the main branches of the Indo-European family.

Celtic, Germanic, Italic, Hellenic, Balto-Slavic, Indo-Iranian.

5. Indicate some of the new languages that developed in each branch.

Celtic (Scottish, Irish, Welsh)

Germanic (Norwegian, Icelandic, Danish, Swedish, English, Dutch, Flemish, German)

Italic (Portuguese, Spanish, French, Italian, Rumanian)

Hellenic (Greek)

Balto-Slavic (Polish, Slovak and Russian)

Indo-Iranian (Persian, Hindi)

6. Trace the development of Contemporary English.

Germanic, Old English, Middle English, Modern English.