**ER 2.1 *18c timelines***

To do this activity, you will need access to the *OED.* For (b) and (c) you will need the online version.

(a) Here are some words first recorded in English during the eighteenth century. Use the *OED* to find out in which year they first appeared. Also find out something about where the words came from; even some vague statement like ‘Germanic origin’ will do. The answers are below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *ablute* | *dentist* | *gambler* |
| *madden* (= ‘make mad’) | *saga* |  |

(b) Go to the online OED home page. In the centre is a large box marked ‘Browse Dictionary’. Click on the ‘Timelines’ button. It gives you a chart showing the number of words first recorded in the language in each half century, from 1000AD till the present day. How does the 18th century compare with other periods in terms of the number of new-word records?

(c) To explore eighteenth-century innovations a little, click on the 1700-1749 bar and look at the list of 36547 new-word records for the period. Select three words and explore their origins, just as you did in (a) above. If you wish, you could do the same for 1750-1799.

**Answers to (a)**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| *ablute* | 1703 | Latin |
| *dentist* | 1759 | French/Latin |
| *gambler* | 1735 | From Germanic ‘game’ |
| *madden* (= ‘make mad’) | 1720 | From ‘mad’ (Germanic). |
| *saga* | 1709 | Germanic |