ETYMONS GONE WILD

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“INDYCAR”, trade name of the Indy Racing League LLC, has a distinction which few have paused to appreciate. It is a race sanctioning body which is named after an annual auto race (Indianapolis 500), which is named after a city (Indianapolis), which is named after a state (Indiana), which is named after a population (North American Indians), which is named after a large geographical region (East Indies), which is named after a river (Indus River). To the best of my knowledge, nothing else meets or exceeds the six levels of etymons (words from which other words are derived) which INDYCAR derives from. And it could be argued that “India” should fit in at the etymon for “East Indies”, adding a seventh level.

It is relatively hard to find even three levels of derivation stacked upon each other before the origins are lost in the mists of time. Some of these chains of etymology are given below, but, as puzzles for the reader, with the specific terms replaced by generalities (but placed back in Answers and Solutions). Checking relied primarily on Wikipedia and the Online Etymology Dictionary (etymonline.com). See how many of the following you can identify.

1. A record company
   which is named after a capital
   which is named after a national toponym
   which is named after an explorer
   which is named, ultimately, after a bird.

2. A ground cover
   which is named after a building
   which is named after a sports team
   which is named after something distant.

3. A shoe
   which is named after a university
   which is named after a city
   which is named after a pathway.

4. A military alliance
   which is named after a sea
   which is named after a mountain
   which is named after a god.

5. An insect
   which is named after a type of killer
   which is named after a religious sect
   which is named after a drug.

6. A messaging system
   which is named after a technology
   which is named after a fundamental particle
   which is named after an energy description
   which is named after a semiprecious gem.

7. A crop pest
   which is named after a state
   which is named after a river
   which is named after a color.

8. A Fortune-500 company
   which is named after a machine
   which is named after an insect
   which is named after a mammal.

9. A hair removal treatment
   which is named after an attire
   which is named after a Pacific site
   which is named after a tree.

10. An LGBTQ intuition
    which is named after a locating system
    which is named after a form of radiation
    which is named after a shape and direction.

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11. A bacterium genus
    which is named after a disease
    which is named after a social organization
    which is named after a military unit.

12. A governing document
    which is named after a ship
    which is named after a type of plant
    which is named after a month
    which is named after a goddess.

13. An advertising medium
    which is named after a food
    which is named after a certain nobleman’s title
    which is named after a town.

14. A communication directive
    which is named after a clerical supply
    which is named after an element
    which is named after something hot.

15. A test spacecraft
    which is named after a fictional spacecraft
    which is named after a number of naval ships
    which are named after an ideal.

16. A genre
    which is named after a group of languages
    which is named after an empire
    which is named after a city
    which is named after a mythical character.

17. A color
    which is named after a drink
    which is named after a French region
    which is named after an Italian region.

18. A color
    which is named after a drink
    which is named after a French region
    which is named after a Germanic tribe.

19. An editorial guide
    which is named after a university
    which is named after a city
    which is named after a smell.

20. A melon
    which is named after a color
    which is named after a bird
    which is named after an island group
    which is named after a mammal.

21. An interpreted programming language
    which is named after a general-purpose
    programming language
    which is named after a drink
    which is named after an island.

22. An insect virus
    which is named after a genetic material
    which is named after a pentose monosaccharide
    which is named after another pentose
    monosaccharide
    which is named after a product from tree sap
    which is named after an ethnicity.

23. A national park
    which is named after a tree
    which is named after a biblical character
    which is named after a religious declaration.

24. A neuroscience journal
    which is named after a brain region
    which is named after a fish
    which is named after a mythical creature.

25. A comic strip
    which is named after an audience
    which is named after an edible seed
    which is named after another edible seed.

26. A put-down
    which is named after a hominid
    which is named after a valley
    which is named after a pastor.

27. A stereotyped woman
    which is named after a figure
    which is named after a material
    which is named after a country
    which perhaps is named after a dynasty.