

**Exploration of The Baby Name Wizard's [NameVoyager](#)
also available via [Viz4All](#)**

The purpose of this assignment is to guide you through an exploration of a visualization tool, to give you first-hand experience in how the tool's presentation and interaction techniques support some tasks better than others.

1. What is your given name?
2. What is your birth year?

Details (6 pts: 1,1,2,2)

3. What was the rank of your name in your birth decade? This visualization shows name usage in America, because that is where they could get comprehensive long-term data. If your name is not listed, choose another name for your gender that is nearby, i.e., begins with the same one or more letters or sounds similar. List that name and use it in the following questions.
4. What was the approximate usage rate of your name in your birth year? You may need to interpolate between given data values.
5. Describe the popularity of your name over time and list its peak year, usage rate, and rank.
6. Now backspace to examine the view of all names of your gender that begin with your initial letter. How does the Name Voyager combine multiple names into a single view (the usage scale provides clues)? What name in this view is most popular now? Double-click that region.

Overview (8 pts: 2 each)

7. Look at the overview of both genders. What conclusions can you draw from the overview image alone, without any interaction? What overall pattern(s) do you see? What data or details are visible?
8. Repeat with boys-only and girls-only overviews.
9. Find the top-ranked boy's name and girl's name in 2006. How did you do it?
10. Can you find a girl's name and a boy's name that have been in fairly consistent use? What search strategies did you use?

Comparisons (16 pts: 4 each)

11. List the three most popular boy's names in the 1980's in order, and the three most popular girl's names in the 1980's.
12. List the three most popular names in 1980 in order, regardless of gender. What operations in the tool support these tasks (i.e., how many user actions, and what are they)? Does the tool show this information explicitly, or must you compare, rank, etc, yourself?
13. What are the four most popular names of all time? How sure are you? What operations must you perform to find out? Are these operations mental, written or supported by the tool?
14. Compare the popularity of Jessica over time to the popularity of Jennifer over time. Compare the popularity of Anna over time to the popularity of Susan over time. What if anything is different about these two comparisons?

Summary (10 pts: 4,6)

15. List all of the techniques users can use to get information from the Name Voyager.
16. Discuss your experience with the Name Voyager, including its strengths and its limitations. Which operations were easy, and which ones were hard? Pose a question that this tool supports, and another question that this tool does not support. Make some suggestions for improvement.