



Dear Jax,
 Why is Earth called Earth?
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Beakman or Jax
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 Questions, name & address

All of the planets orbiting our sun – except for Earth – are named after ancient Greek or Roman gods and goddesses. Even Pluto is named after an ancient god even though it was discovered in the 20th century.

The ancients could see and watch the movements of the planets Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. But thousands of years ago the planets were not thought of as places.

The only place that existed back then was the place you could stand and walk, or look up from.

That was, and is, the ground, which is how our place, our planet, was named after it.

Most languages grow and change as our cultures change, nudged into change by forces such as art, or who won the last war.

But two languages on Earth were invented on purpose.

The first is Esperanto, which was supposed to be the international language. Earth in Esperanto is *Tero*. Esperanto was a huge flop and is spoken today only by a handful of kooks.

Inuit: Chiqix or Tanax
 Dear Katie,
 Languages grow and change as time passes. The word Earth grew from other languages such as the Old Germanic English (Saxon) words *Eore* or *Ertha*; the Dutch word *Aerde* and the German word *Erda*.

Some languages like Spanish are based on ancient Latin. They are called Romance languages, which points back to ancient Rome as the place Latin grew. They have different names for our planet such as *Terra*.

All those names translate to the same thing: *ground* or *dirt*. It's where we still stand, and naming that place "ground" makes sense.

Jax Place
 Jax Place

The other on purpose language is Klingon, spoken by Star Trek enthusiasts. Earth in Klingon is *Tera* or *Yav*. Today more people speak Klingon than Esperanto.

P.S. from Beakman: The biggest force changing language today is eMails and text-messages on cell phones. It used to be that LOL meant Little Old Lady. Now it means laughing out loud.

