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Ancient Greek last names were not commonly used in the day-to-day lives of ancient Greeks. Ancient Greeks primarily used personal names, followed by patronymics (their father’s name) and often their demotics (indicating their origin or city-state). The concept of surnames or last names, as we know them today, didn’t exist. Greek names, which includes last names, are so diverse that their history and use are now studied as a branch of the research of names, called onomastics. What are Ancient Greek Last Names? Ancient Greece was an era that spanned from about 800 BC to 146 BC. From this civilization would arise Western philosophy, democratic practices, the Persian Wars, and the Peloponnesian War. Ancient Greek last names were typically only used when formal clarification of one’s identity was needed. Otherwise, ancient Greeks used their personal name. Ancient Greek last names consisted of the names of their fathers, and a third name could denote their home city as needed. Some ancient Greeks were also identified by their occupation or a particular physical or personality trait. Therefore, a person might be called “X son of Y from Z place.” For example, “Socrates, son of Sophroniscus from Alopece” would be the way to formally identify Socrates, the founder of Western philosophy, and “Alexandros, son of Philip from Macedon” would be the way to formally identify Alexander the Great, king of the ancient Greek kingdom of Macedon. This naming system allowed Greeks to differentiate between individuals with the same given name by providing context about their lineage and origin. As last names became more commonly used, the echoes of ancient Greek culture and ideals would carry on long after ancient Greece fell to Roman rule. 100 Examples of Ancient Greek Last Names We have curated examples of ancient Greek last names by collecting the personal names of notable figures in ancient Greece and their patronymics and demotics. The names below would be the full reference to these people and how they would be formally identified. Alexandros – Alexandros, son of Philippos from Macedon (Alexander the Great) Plato – Plato son of Ariston from Athens Archimedes – Archimedes from Syracuse Isocrates – Isocrates son of Theodorus from Scambonidae Pythagoras – Pythagoras son of Mnesarchus from Samos Hippocrates – Hippocrates son of Heraclides from Kos Aesop – Aesop from Thrace, Phrygia (demotics are debated) Herakleides – Herakleides of Pontus Perikles – Perikles son of Xanthippus from the deme of Cholargos Alkibiades – Alkibiades son of Kleinias from the deme of Scambonidae Leonidas – Leonidas I of Sparta Themistokles – Themistokles son of Neokles from the deme of Phrearrhioi Miltiades – Miltiades son of Cimon from the deme of Laciadae Pyrrhos – Pyrrhos from Epirus Lysandros – Lysandros of Sparta Philippos – Philippos II of Macedonia Democritus – Democritus of Abdera Heraclitus – Heraclitus of Ephesus Archytas – Archytas of Tarentum Aristoxenus – Aristoxenus of Tarentum Andocides – Andocides son of Leogoras from the deme of Aegilia Eratosthenes – Eratosthenes of Cyrene Antiphon – Antiphon of Rhamnous Alcaeus – Alcaeus of Mytilene, Lesbos Aspasia – Aspasia of Miletus, associated with Athens due to Perikles Anacreon – Anacreon of Teos Cleanthes – Cleanthes of Assos Speusippus – Speusippus of Athens Epicurus – Epicurus of Samos Lysias – Lysias son of Cephalus from the deme of Cephale Mnesarchus – Often mentioned as the father of Pythagoras from Samos Philoctetes – Philoctetes of Lemnos in some myths Simonides – Simonides of Ceos Theophrastus – Theophrastus of Eresos, Lesbos Thales – Thales of Miletus Strabo – Strabo of Amaseia in Pontus Terpander – Terpander of Lesbos Stesichorus – Stesichorus of Himera, Sicily Xenocrates – Xenocrates of Chalcedon Tyrtaeus – Tyrtaeus of Sparta Meton – Meton of Athens Alcman – Alcman of Sparta Agathon – Agathon of Athens Diodorus – Diodorus from Agyrium in Sicily Philemon – Philemon from Soli or Syracuse Callicrates – Callicrates of Athens Cratinus – Cratinus of Athens Aratus – Aratus of Soli in Cilicia Bion of Smyrna – Bion from Smyrna Chrysippus – Chrysippus of Soli Antigonus – Carystus – Antigonus from Carystus on Euboea Apollodorus – Apollodorus of Athens Posidonius – Posidonius of Apamea in Syria Agrippa – Lanatus – Agrippa Menenius Lanatus of Rome Melissus of Samos – Melissus from Samos Cleisthenes of Sicyon – Cleisthenes from Sicyon Scylax of Caryanda – Scylax from Caryanda in Caria Bacchylides – Bacchylides of Ceos Timocreon – Timocreon of Rhodes Hellanicus of Lesbos – Hellanicus from Mytilene, Lesbos Pamphilus – Pamphilus of Amphipolis Callinus – Callinus of Ephesus Nearchus – Nearchus of Crete, served Alexander Euhemerus – Euhemerus of Messene Theocritus – Theocritus of Syracuse Demosthenes – Demosthenes son of Demosthenes from Paeania Epaminondas – Epaminondas from Thebes Kallias – Kallias son of Hipponicus from Alopece Xenophon – Xenophon son of Gryllus from Athens Thucydides – Thucydides son of Olorus from Halimos Pelopidas – Pelopidas from Thebes Nicias – Nicias son of Niceratus from Cydathenaeum Lycurgus – Lycurgus the son of Eunomus, Spartan lawgiver Eudoxus – Eudoxus son of Aeschines from Cnidus Anaxagoras – Anaxagoras from Clazomenae Empedocles – Empedocles from Akragas, Agrigento Zeno of Elea – Zeno son of Teleutagoras from Elea Kleisthenes – Kleisthenes son of Megacles from Athens Aristophanes – Aristophanes son of Philippus from Kydathenaeum Pausanias – Pausanias son of Cleombrotus from Sparta, Pausanias the Regent Cimon – Cimon son of Miltiades from Laciadae Hesiod – Hesiod from Ascra Hipparchus – Hipparchus from Nicaea Euripides – Euripides son of Mnesarchus from Salamis Sappho – Sappho from Lesbos Aeschylus – Aeschylus son of Euphorion from Eleusis Diogenes – Cynic – Diogenes son of Hicesias from Sinope Polybius – Polybius from Megalopolis Antisthenes – Antisthenes from Athens Gorgias – Gorgias from Leontini Phidias – Phidias from Athens Parmenides – Parmenides son of Pyres from Elea Solon – Solon son of Execestides from Athens Pindar – Pindar from Thebes Corinna – Corinna from Tanagra Aristarchus – Aristarchus from Samos Menander – Menander son of Diopeithes from Kephisia Lysippus – Lysippus from Sicyon Protagoras – Protagoras from Abdera Chilon – Chilon from Sparta See more Modern Greek Last Names You are here: Home / Names / Last Names / Last Names by Nationality / 503 Greek Last NamesGreece is a land steeped in history, myths, and traditions. It is a nation shaped by ancient philosophers, formidable warriors, and iconic gods and goddesses. Greeks are known for their passion, creativity, resilience, and hospitality, and our list of the most popular Greek last names is brimming with the history of a nation that founded many Western concepts of science and philosophy. What are Greek Last Names? Greek last names hail from the Greek culture that spans thousands of years. Common themes in Greek last names include religion, occupations, and geographic locations. Greek surnames are often associated with statesmen and philosophers and give the impression that the holder of such surnames has a connection or similarities to history’s greatest thinkers. These last names are unique because of their long histories and references to ancient patronymics, locations, and occupations. Greek surnames evolved over time and did not have the same structure or significance in ancient Greece as in modern times. The use of surnames as a family-based identification passed from generation to generation became more common during the Byzantine period, especially under the influence of the Christian church. Over time, the Byzantine naming conventions, which often included the father’s name and sometimes the place of origin or occupation, evolved into fixed family names. This transformation was a gradual process that solidified in the late medieval and early modern periods. The most common Greek surname, Papadopoulos, which means ‘son of a priest,’ attests to the importance of religion in Greek culture. As Greeks have migrated around the world, so have their surnames. For example, common Greek American last names include Pappas and Dimas, and unique Greek American last names include Stavropoulos and Polyzou. We have gathered a comprehensive list of Greek last names and their meanings for researchers studying this fascinating culture. Top 100 Greek Last Names Greek last names frequently derive from patronymics, locations, or occupations. Many of them end in “-poulos,” signifying “son of” or “-opoulos” indicating a familial or geographic connection. Our list of the most common Greek last names and their meanings reveals the fascinating surnames of this beautiful country. Papadopoulos – Son of a Priest Papadopoulou – Daughter of a Priest Papageorgiou – Son of Priest George Oikonomou – Housekeeper or Steward Papadimitriou – Son of Priest Dimitrios Georgiou – Son of George Papaioannou – Son of Priest John Pappas – Priest Papadakis – Little Son of a Priest Nikolopoulos – Son of Nicholas Ioannou – Son of John Demetriou – Son of Demetrius, Dimitrios Vasilopoulos – Son of Basil Antonopoulos – Son of Anthony, Antonios Christopoulos – Son of Christos Athanasiou – Son of Athanasios Vasileiou – Son of Vasilis Nikolaou – Son of Nicholas Karagiannis – Black John Vlachos – From Vlach Region or Shepherd Antoniou – Son of Antonios Makris – Long or Tall Papanikolaou – Son of Priest Nicholas Dimitriou – Son of Dimitrios Ioannidis – Son of Ioannis Georgiadis – Son of Georgios Triantafyllou – Rose Tree or Thirty Leaves Konstantinidis – Son of Konstantinos Alexiou – Son of Alexis Christodoulou – Servant of Christ Theodorou – Son of Theodoros Giannopoulos – Son of Yiannis Nikolaidis – Son of Nikolaos Konstantinou – Son of Konstantinos Michailidis – Son of Michail Panagiotopoulos – Son of Panagiotis Papakonstantinou – Son of Priest Konstantinos Papathanasiou – Son of Priest Athanasios Dimopoulos – Related to Dimitrios Karagianni – Black Yianna Anastasiou – Son of Anastasios Dimitriadis – Son of Dimitrios Pappa – Priestess or Daughter of a Priest Vlachou – From Vlach Region or Shepherdess Vasileiadis – Son of Vasilis Giannakopoulos – Son of Little Yiannis Angelopoulos – Son of Angelos Dimou – Related to Dimitra or Dimitrios Ioannidou – Daughter of Ioannis Mylonas – Miller Stergiou – Son of Stergios Apostolou – Son of Apostolos Petropoulos – Son of Petros Lamprou – Bright or Shiny Papadaki – Little Priest Christou – Of Christ Panagiotou – Of Panagiotis, All-Holy Anagnostou – Of Anagnostis, Reader Makri – Long or Tall Konstantinidou – Daughter of Konstantinos, Constant or Steadfast Samaras – Saddle Maker Athanasopoulos – Son of Athanasios, Immortal Alexopoulos – Son of Alexis, Defender Stavropoulos – Son of Stavros, Cross Anagnostopoulos – Son of Anagnostis, Reader Markou – Of Markos, derived from Mark Georgiadou – Daughter of Georgios, Farmer or Earthworker Raptis – Tailor Spanos – Rare or Scarce Sidiropoulos – Son of Sideris, Iron Antoniadis – Son of Antonios, derived from Antony Panagopoulos – Son of Panagis, short for Panagiotis, All-Holy Efthymiou – Of Efthymios, Cheerful or Good mood Spyropoulos – Son of Spyros, short for Spyridon, Spirit Theodoropoulos – Son of Theodoros, Gift of God Pavlidis – Son of Pavlos, Paul Apostolopoulos – Son of Apostolos, Apostle or Messenger Petrou – Of Petros, Peter Michalopoulos – Son of Michalis, Michael Arvanitis – From Arvanitika-speaking regions, Albanian Lazaridis – Son of Lazaros, Lazarus Kontos – Short Georgopoulos – Son of Georgios, Farmer or Earthworker Athanasiadis – Son of Athanasios, Immortal Panagiotidis – Son of Panagiotis, All-Holy Theodoridis – Son of Theodoros, Gift of God Chatzis – Priest Anastasiadis – Son of Anastasios, Resurrection Papavasileiou – Priest Vasilios, King or Basil Papazoglou – Priest’s Son Iliopoulos – Son of Ilias, Elijah Kostopoulos – Son of Konstantinos, Constant or Steadfast Politis – Citizen or City Dweller Galanis – Azure or Pale-skinned Stavrou – Of Stavros, Cross Apostolidis – Son of Apostolos, Apostle or Messenger Paraskevopoulos – Son of Paraskevas, related to Preparation or Friday Giannopoulou – Daughter of Giannis, John Diamantis – Diamond Pantazis – Always Alive Unique Greek Last Names Unique Greek last names may carry specific regional or historical significance. Some are remnants of ancient traditions, mythological references, or familial tales. You’ll stand out of the crowd in any century with these Greek last names. Anastasakis – Resurrection Andreou – Son of Andreas Angelopoulou – Daughter of Angelos Bouras – North Wind Charalampidis – Son of Charalambos, meaning Shining with Joy Chatzi – Half or Short for someone of mixed descent Christoforou – Bearer of Christ Constantinou – Son of Konstantinos Diamantopoulos – Son of Diamantis, meaning Diamond Dimas – Short form of Dimitrios Dimitropoulos – Son of Dimitrios Dimopoulou – Daughter of Dimitrios Efstathiou – Son of Efstathios, meaning Stable, Steadfast Evangelou – Son of Evangelos, meaning Bringer of Good News Fotiadis – Son of Fotios, meaning Light Fotopoulos – Son of Fotios Gavriilidis – Son of Gavriil, meaning God is my Strength Georgakopoulos – Son of little George Giannakopoulou – Daughter of little Ioannis Gounaris – From Gounar, meaning Leather Worker Grigoriadis – Son of Grigorios, meaning Vigilant, Watchful Iliadis – Son of Elias, Ilias. Or from Iliadis Kanellopoulos – Son of little Kanellos Katopodis – From Kato Podi, meaning Lower Foot Katsaros – Curly-haired Katsoulis – Little cat Kokkinos – Red-haired or ruddy Kollias – Related to Nicholas, victory of the people Kostas – Short form of Konstantinos Kyriakidis – Son of Kyriakos, meaning Of the Lord Kyriakou – Of Kyriakos Lampropoulos – Son of Lampros, meaning Bright, Shining Loukas – From name Loukas, meaning From Lucania Manolopoulos – Son of Manolis, a version of Emmanuel Manos – Short form of Emmanuel, meaning God is with us Margaritis – Pearl Mavridis – Son of Mavros, meaning Black Mavromatis – Black-eyed Metaxas – Silk merchant Michailidou – Daughter of Michail Moraitis – From Moria, a region in Greece Moustakas – Mustached Mylona – Miller Nikolaidou – Daughter of Nikolaos Nikolopoulou – Daughter of Nikolaos Panagiotopoulou – Daughter of Panagiotis, meaning All Holy Papas – Priest Petridis – Son of Petros, meaning Rock or Stone Polychronopoulos – Son of Polychronios, meaning Long-lived Polyzou – Many lives Rallis – Captain or Admiral Rigas – Flowing Stream Rizos – Curly-haired Roussos – Red-haired or Russian Samara – Guardian or Protector Sarris – Saracen or Arabian Savvidis – Son of Savvas Sideris – Iron Sotiriou – Son of Sotirios, meaning Savior Sotiropoulos – Son of Sotirios Spyridakis – Son of Spyridon Stamatopoulos – Son of Stamatios, related to stop Stathopoulos – Son of Stathis, related to standing firm Stefanidis – Son of Stefanos, meaning Crown Stefanou – Of Stefanos Stephanopoulos – Son of Stephanos Tsakalos – Small bucket or pail Tsakiris – Shoemaker Tsatsos – Chatterer or Squeaker Vasilakis – Little King Vasileiadou – Daughter of Vasilios, meaning Kingly Vlachopoulos – Son of Vlachos, meaning Shepherd or Romanian Voulgaris – Bulgarian Vrettos – Ancient or Old Zachariadis – Son of Zacharias, meaning God Remembers Zervas – Left-handed or skilled Cute Ancient Greek Last Names Cute Greek last names evoke imagery from nature, such as flowers or landscapes, imparting a gentle and charming essence. Their phonetic allure endear them to many, both within and outside the Greek community. Alexakis – Son of Alexis Angelaki – Little Angel Angeli – Angel Angelidis – Son of Angelos Angelis – Of Angelos Angelou – Of Angelos Boura – North Wind Dedes – Son of Theodoros Dima – Short form of Dimitra Dimakis – Son of Dimitrios, diminutive form Dimos – Short form of Dimitrios Douka – Lady or Noblewoman Drosos – Dew Floros – Related to Flora, meaning Flower Florou – Of Flora Fotiou – Of Fotios, meaning Light Galani – Calm, Serene, related to galene Giannis – Ioannis, meaning God is Gracious Giotis – Variant of Giannis, God is Gracious Kanellos – Cinnamon Kapsali – Small Box or Capsule Karali – Queen or Important Woman Karra – Tile or Brick Katsouli – Small Cat Kefalas – Head or Leader Kokkalis – Bone Kokkinou – Of Kokkinos, meaning Red Kontou – Short or of short stature Kosmas – Universe or Order Kosmidou – Daughter of Kosmas Kotoulas – Small Cup Kotsis – Stone, Pebble Koukos – Cuckoo Bird Koulouris – A type of bread or ring-shaped biscuit Lagos – Hare Lazarou – Of Lazaros, related to Eleazar meaning God has helped Lazos – Short form of Eleazaros Lekka – Slick, Smooth Liakos – Related to lia, meaning shiny stone Liapi – Bright Sun Liapis – Son of Liapi Liolios – Glossy, Shiny Louka – From the name Loukas, meaning From Lucania Margariti – Pearl Michou – Of Michalis, meaning Who is like God? Milios – Miler Moschou – Calf or from moschos meaning scent, fragrance Nakou – Related to nakos, meaning weaver’s reed Nanos – Dwarf Nika – Victory Nikas – Victory Nikou – Of Nikolaos Panou – Of Panos, a diminutive of Panagiotis Pantelis – Always or Everlasting Peppas – Diminutive form of Petros Petraki – Little Peter or Rock Poulios – Bird Psarra – Old Woman Riga – Flowing Stream Rizou – Of Rizos, meaning Curly-haired Sarri – Saracen or Arabian Simou – Of Simon, meaning He has heard Stamati – Related to Stamatis, meaning Stop Thoma – From the name Thomas, meaning Twin Tsakiri – Daughter of Tsakiris, Shoemaker Tselios – Small Chalice Tsolaki – Small Tsolias, which refers to a traditional Greek uniform Zerva – Left-handed or skilled Zioga – Life Zisi – Lifetime Cool Ancient Greek Last Names We’ve curated a list of the coolest ancient Greek last names. Their phonetic structure can be bold and commanding, captivating the listener’s attention. Read on to find some cool ancient Greek last names history has preserved. Akritidis – From akritas, frontier guards during Byzantine times Alexaki – Little Alex or Defender Chronis – Time Delis – Brave or Mad, Crazy Dionysopoulos – Son of Dionysios Doukas – Duke or Leader Drakos – Dragon Emmanouil – With us is God Exarchos – Leader or Chief Fotis – Light Fragkos – Frankish, referring to a Western European Fragkou – Of Frank, Western European Galanakis – From galanos meaning azure or blue-eyed Gavriil – Gabriel, God is my strength Gkikas – Short or Small man Gkinis – Derived from gkini, meaning swimsuit Gkogkos – Small bell or bud Gkoumas – Helmet or Hood Iakovidis – Son of Jacob or James Ioakeimidis – Son of Joachim Karachalios – Black Stone or Chalk Karageorgiou – George’s Black or Black George Karalis – King or Royalty Karras – Black, dark Kazakos – Cossack Komninos – Noble, notable family from Byzantine era Kritikos – From Crete Lekkas – Smooth or Polished Leventis – Brave, referring to a young soldier Logothetis – Secretary or Clerk Manolis – Derived from Emmanouil, With us is God Mavros – Black Metaxa – Silk Moschos – Calf or Perfume Nakos – Reed or Small boat Orfanos – Orphan Panos – Short for Panagiotis, All Holy Parisis – From Paris Poulos – Son of Roussou – Red-haired or from Russia Sakkas – Sack or Bag maker Sfakianakis – From Sfakia, a region in Crete Sigalas – Whistle or Small flute Simos – Snub-nosed Skouras – Bald Sotiriadis – Son of Sotirios, Savior Spyrou – Of Spyros, derived from Spiridon, Basket Stratakis – Little General Terzis – Lute player Thanos – Immortal Theodorakis – Son of Theodoros, Gift of God Thomaidis – Son of Thomas, Twin Tsagkaraki – Little Shoemaker Tsarouchas – Shoemaker Tsironis – Steel or Strong Tsolakis – Little Tsolias, traditional Greek uniform Tsoukalas – Chewer or Grinder Tzavaras – Man with Curly Hair Tzikas – Curly-haired Tzimas – Winter Tzortzis – George Vergos – Young Man or Servant Vogiatzis – Bullock Driver or Herdsman Voudouris – Bull Xenakis – Little Stranger Xenos – Stranger Xenou – Of Xenia, Hospitality Yfantis – Archer Zachos – Pure or Innocent Zervos – Left-handed or Dexterous Zikos – Live or Lively Ziogas – Lifetime Pretty Ancient Greek Last Names Ancient Greek writing and poetry were read and analyzed thousands of years after the fall of ancient Greece. The last names embody beauty that has truly withstood the test of time. Adamidou – Daughter of Adam Adamopoulou – Daughter of Adam Alexopoulou – Daughter of Alex or Defender Anastasiadou – Daughter of Anastasios, Resurrection Andreadis – Son of Andreas Angelakis – Little Angel or Messenger Angelidou – Daughter of an Angel or Messenger Asimakopoulou – Daughter of Asimakis Avramidou – Daughter of Avramis or Abraham Chalaris – Mild, Gentle Chalkia – Made of bronze Charalampidou – Daughter of Charalambos, Shining with joy Charitos – Grace or Favor Christoforidou – Daughter of Christoforos, Bearer of Christ Diamanti – Diamond Efthymiadou – Daughter of Efthymios, Good mood or Cheerful Eleftheriadis – Son of Eleftherios, Free Eleftheriadou – Daughter of Eleftherios, Free Emmanouilidou – Daughter of Emmanouil, With us is God Fotiadou – Daughter of Fotios, Light Fotopoulou – Daughter of Fotis, Light Fragkouli – Little Frank, referring to Western European Gavala – Mare Georgopoulou – Daughter of Georgios, Farmer or Earth worker Giannouli – Little Giannis or John Iordanidou – Daughter of Iordanis or Jordan Iosifidou – Daughter of Iosif or Joseph Kalantzi – Probably from kalantzis, referring to a shoemaker Kaloudis – Good Kalyvas – Hut or Small house Kampouri – Small field or Camp Karagiannidou – Daughter of Karagiannis, Black John Kolovou – From kolos, meaning Maimed Koulouri – Round bread or Bracelet Kyriakidou – Daughter of Kyriakos, Belonging to the Lord Kyriakopoulou – Daughter of Kyriakos, Belonging to the Lord Kyritsi – Lady or Mistress Lampropoulou – Daughter of Lampros, Bright or Shining Liakou – From lios, meaning Sun Lianos – Lean or Thin Marinou – From marinos, meaning Of the sea Mathioudaki – Little Mathios or Matthew Mavropoulou – Daughter of Mavros, Black Moraiti – From Morea, a historical name for Peloponnese Palaiologos – Old or Ancient Word, notable Byzantine dynasty Palaiologou – Female variant of Palaiologos Panteli – Short for Pantelis or Pantelios, All Holy Pantelidou – Daughter of Pantelis or Pantelios, All Holy Papagianni – Priest’s John Papapanagiotou – Priest’s Panagiotis, All Holy Paraskeva – Preparation or Friday Petridou – Daughter of Petros, Stone or Rock Polyzos – Many lives Savvidou – Daughter of Savvas Sfakianaki – From Sfakia, a region in Crete Sigala – Whistle or Small flute Spiliopoulou – Daughter of Spilios, Cave Stamatopoulou – Daughter of Stamatis, Stop or Stand Stavridou – Daughter of Stavros, Cross Stavropoulou – Daughter of Stavros, Cross Theodoridou – Daughter of Theodoros, Gift of God Theodosiou – Belonging to Theodosios, Gift of God Tsoukala – Little Tsouka, a kind of pouch or bag Vasilaki – Little Vasilis or Basil, Royal Vogiatzi – Female variant of Vogiatzis, Bullock Driver or Herdsman Xanthopoulou – Daughter of Xanthos, Blond or Fair-haired Zacharopoulou – Daughter of Zacharias, God has remembered Rare Ancient Greek Last Names Many rare Greek last names have niche origins, tracing specific locales or lesser-known regions. Many of these surnames originate from ancient dialects, isolated islands, or unique familial occupations. Arampatzis – From the Turkish arampač meaning troublemaker Argyriou – Son, Daughter of Argyris, Silver Argyros – Silver Charalampopoulos – Son of Charalambos, Shining with joy Charisis – Grace or Favor Chatzidakis – Son of Chatzidakis, Priest Isaac Chatzidimitriou – Son of Chatzidimitrios, Priest Dimitrios Chatzivasileiou – Son of Chatzivasileios, Priest Vasilios Christodoulakis – Little Christodoulos, Servant of Christ Christoforidis – Son of Christoforos, Bearer of Christ Emmanouilidis – Son of Emmanouil, With us is God Fragkoulis – Little Frank, referring to Western European Galanopoulos – Son of Galanos, Pale-skinned or Azure Gavalas – Small horse or Colt Gogos – Proud or Pompous Grigoropoulos – Son of Grigorios, Vigilant or Watchful Iosifidis – Son of Iosif, Joseph Kampouris – From kampoura, meaning hunchback Karagkounis – Black fur Karakatsanis – From the Karakachans, a nomadic shepherd people Karatzas – From karatza, meaning nail or spike Karavasilis – Black Vasilis, Black King or Basil Kechagia – From kechagi, meaning shepherdess Kechagias – Shepherd Kolokythas – Squash or Pumpkin Kosmidis – From kosmos, meaning world or universe Kostoulas – Little Konstantinos, Constant or Steadfast Kypraios – Cypriot or From Cyprus Lamprakis – Little Lampros, Bright or Shining Lymperopoulos – Son of Lymperis, shine or flash Lymperopoulou – Daughter of Lymperis, shine or flash Maniati – From Mani, a region in Peloponnese Manousaki – Little Manousos Mavridou – Daughter of Mavros, Black Mavropoulos – Son of Mavros, Black Moysidis – Son of Moysis, Moses Nikolakopoulos – Son of Nikolakos, a diminutive of Nikolaos Oikonomopoulos – Son of Oikonomos, Housekeeper or Steward Oikonomopoulou – Daughter of Oikonomos, Housekeeper or Steward Orfanou – Daughter of Orfanos, Orphan Papaefthymiou – Priest Efthymios, Cheerful or Good mood Papaspyrou – Priest Spyros Paraskevas – Preparation or related to Friday Raftopoulos – Of the tailor Rapti – Seam or Stitch Rigopoulos – Son of Rigas, Ruler or Prince Roumeliotis – From Roumeli, a region in central Greece Sideri – Iron Sidiropoulou – Daughter of Sideris, Iron Syrigos – From syriga, meaning tube or pipe Theochari – Grace of God Theodorakopoulos – Son of Theodorakis, diminutive of Theodoros Triantafyllidis – Son of Triantafyllos, Rose Tsagkarakis – From tsagkaros, meaning cobbler or shoemaker Tsiaras – From tsiara, meaning tiara or crown Tzima – Rein or Bridle Zacharaki – Little Zacharias, God has remembered Zacharakis – From Zacharias, God has remembered Zacharopoulos – Son of Zacharias, God has remembered Zafeiropoulos – Son of Zafeiris, variant of Sideris, Iron Uncommon Ancient Greek Last Names Uncommon Greek last names diverge from the typical nomenclature patterns seen in mainstream Greek culture. These surnames have origins in particular historical narratives, specific regional dialects, or a blend of cultural influences. Alexandri – Daughter of Alexandros, Defender of the People Alexandrou – Of Alexandros, Defender of the People Amanatidis – Son of Amanatios Andriopoulos – Son of Andreas, Manly or Brave Androulakis – Little Andreas, Manly or Brave Avgerinos – Morning Star or Dawn Baltas – White or Pale Chalkiadakis – Copper or Bronze worker Chatzakis – Son of Chatzis, Priest Chatzigiannis – John the Priest Chatzikonstantinou – Konstantinos the Priest Drakopoulou – Daughter of Drakos, Dragon Drakou – Of Drakos, Dragon Fragkiadakis – Son of Fragkias, related to Frank Giannaki – Little Giannis, John Giannakou – Of Giannakos, a diminutive of Giannis, John Grammenos – Written or Lettered Iatrou – Of Iatros, Doctor Kalaitzi – Good or Fair Karaiskos – Black, shadow Karanikolas – Black Nicholas Karatza – Charcoal or Blackened Karypidis – Kernel or Seed Kavvadias – Carrier of a Sedan Chair Kitsos – Anointed Kokkinis – Red or Red-haired Kosma – World or Order Kouris – From Kouri, Girl Kyriakakis – Little Kyriakos, Of the Lord Lymperis – Bright or Shiny, derived from Lampros Maragkou – Of Maragkos, meaning Carpenter Marinakis – Son of Marinis, Sailor Markaki – Little Markos, Mark Maroulis – Derived from Marouli, Lettuce Mavrakis – Little Black One Michalakis – Little Michalis, Michael Mitrou – Of Mitros, Mitros or Miter, Headband Mitsopoulos – Son of Mitso, a diminutive of Dimitrios Nomikou – Related to Law, Lawyer Oikonomidou – Daughter of Oikonomos, Housekeeper or Steward Pagoni – Frost or Chill Panopoulos – Son of Panos, short for Panagiotis, All-Holy Papapostolou – Apostolos the Priest Papoutsi – Shoemaker Paschos – Passover or Easter Psomas – Bread Savvas – Old Man Souliotis – From Souli, a region in Greece Stamouli – From Stamos, Stand or Stop Stavroulakis – Little Stavros, Cross Stefanakis – Little Stefanos, Crown Tsakiridis – Son of Tsakiris Tsekoura – Hatchet or Axe Tsolakidis – Son of Tsolakas Vafeiadis – Dyer or Tinted Vagenas – Young Bull Zacharioudakis – Son of Zacharias, Remembered by God Zervou – Daughter of Zervas See more Ancient Greek Last Names Famous People with Greek Last Names Aristotle Onassis was born in Turkey in 1906. He was a shipping magnate who was extremely wealthy and famous and is often remembered for his marriage to Jackie Kennedy, the widow of US President John F. Kennedy. There has yet to be an official translation for his rare Greek last name. Nikos Kazantzakis was born in Greece in 1883. He was an extensive writer and is considered a giant of modern Greek literature. He was nominated for the Nobel Prize nine times. Kazantzakis is of Turkish origin with cultural ties to Crete and means ‘cauldron tinker.’ Mikis Theodorakis was born in Greece in 1925. As a composer and lyricist, his work cemented his legacy as one of Greece’s greatest composers. He ran for office and was elected Minister of State in 1990. His Greek last name means ‘God’s gift’. Stefanos Tsitsipas was born in Greece in 1998. He is among the world’s best tennis players and has played on the Association of Tennis Players tour for several years. His Greek last name is rare and is used by less than 200 people, and its meaning is unknown. Nikos Vertis was born in the Netherlands in 1976 under the name Nikolaos Arvanitidis. His music is a mixture of pop and modern laïkó, a Greek folk music style. This Greek surname means ‘just’ or turn.’ References Information from Wikipedia on Greek last names was used in the collection of this data. The challenge in understanding Greek last names is that they sound foreign to many, and many family names also sound very similar. The similarity can be boxed into suffixes like “poulos, dis,” and “ou,” which create similar sounds in surnames. We explain several of these suffixes in our surname descriptions, making it easy to understand and pronounce each surname. So whether you want to learn more about your own Greek surname or are just curious about Greek family names, we have a fantastic list for you below! No results found. Clear the Filters? For a historical treat, let’s dive straight into our list of 100 Greek surnames. Adamos is the Greek form of the Hebrew Adam and is both a surname and a masculine given name. Adamos derives from the Latin Adamus, meaning “earth, ground,” which is the same meaning as Adam. Origin: Latin, Greek Meaning: Son of Adam Pronunciation: AH-duh-mos Variations: Adamus Namesakes: Ian James Adamos, an American Guamanian international footballer who made his first appearance for the Guam national team in 2012. Popularity: Adamos is a rare surname but somewhat common in the Mediterranean region. Alexopoulos derives from the Greek personal name Alexios with the addition of the patronymic ending “poulos.” The ending “poulos” derives from the Latin “pullus,” meaning “nestling, chick.” The female form of the surname is Alexopoulou. Origin: Greek Meaning: Son of Alexios Pronunciation: AE-lihks-ah-pooh-loss Namesakes: Alexios Alexopoulos, a retired Greek sprinter who specialized in the 200 meters, known for winning the silver medal at the 1996 European Indoor Championships. Popularity: Alexopoulos is a rare surname worldwide. Ambrosia derives from the Greek word “ambrotos,” meaning “immortal,” which combines the prefix “a,” meaning “not,” with “mbrotos,” meaning “mortal.” In Greek and Roman mythology, only the immortal gods and goddesses could eat ambrosia. This was said to be the food and drink of the gods, said to confer longevity and immortality. Origin: Greek, Roman Meaning: Immortality Pronunciation: AM-BRO-SEE-A Variations: Ambrosine Namesakes: Ambrosia Nicole Parsley, an American alternative pop/rock singer-songwriter known as the lead singer of Shivaree. Popularity: Ambrosia is somewhat common as a given feminine name but uncommon as a surname. Andino is a Spanish habitational place in Castile that originated from the Greek personal name Andreas. Members of the church almost exclusively used Andino. One of the first records is of a monk named Andrea, found in the English Domesday Book of 1086. Origin: Ancient Greek, Latin, Spanish Meaning: Manly, brave Pronunciation: an-DEE-noh Variations: Andre, Aindrias, Andrew, Anders, Andriol, Andretti, Andress, Andriuis, Namesakes: Paola Nicole Andino, an American actress known for her lead role as Emma Alonso in the Nickelodeon series, Every Witch Way. Popularity: Andino ranked the 5,096th most common surname in America and is fairly common worldwide. Andrianakis is a patronym from the given name Andreas, with the Cretan suffix “akis.” The Cretans masculinized names by adding an “s” to the end. Andreas means “man” and refers to the duties of a male in the patriarchal society of ancient Greece. Origin: Greek Meaning: Man Pronunciation: an-dre-ian-nah-kus Variations: Andriannakis, Andrianaki, Andrianakos Popularity: Andrianakis is most prevalent in Greece and is predominantly recorded in Europe, where 91% of Andrianakis occur. Andrianakis is also common within Australian Greek communities. Angelos is rooted in Greek mythology and was a daughter of Zeus and Hera, and a goddess of the Underworld. Angelos is the Greek form of Angel or Angelo but could also be a short form of the personal name Evangelos meaning “bringer of good news.” Origin: Greek Meaning: Divine messenger, messenger of God Pronunciation: AE-n-juh-lOHs Variations: Angel, Angell, Anzioleto, Anziolo Namesakes: Angelos Sikelianos, a Greek lyric poet and playwright of themes that include Greek history, religious symbolism, and universal harmony. Popularity: Angelos is an uncommon surname, more commonly used as a given name. Antonopoulos derives from the Latin Antonius, or the Greek personal name Antonios. The female version of Antonopoulos is Antonopoulou. The patronymic ending “poulos” emphasizes heritage and is derived from the Latin “pullus.” Origin: Greek, Latin Meaning: Highly praiseworthy Pronunciation: ANT-ohno-pooh-loss Variations: Antoyne, Antoons, Antonssen, Antonov Namesakes: Apostolos Antonopoulos, a former Greek swimmer and silver and bronze medalist at the 2005 Mediterranean Games in Almería, Spain. Popularity: Antonopoulos is a rare surname worldwide. Athanasiou is a Greek form of Athanasius. Athanasiou is believed to be related to Athanasios of Alexandria, also known as Saint Athanasius the Great. Athanasios was known for his resistance against the Arians in the Byzantine Era. Athanasiou also means “eternal life” and “the immortal divine soul.” Origin: Greek Meaning: Immortal Pronunciation: a-THAN-a-see-oo Variations: Athanasius, Athanasios Namesakes: Athanasios Skaltsogiannis, a Greek athlete who competed at the 1896 Summer Olympics in Athens. Popularity: Athanasiou is somewhat common in Greece but rare elsewhere. Athans is a reduced form of Athanas or any of the various other names derived from the personal name Athanasios. The Athans surname is most numerous in the U.S. Origin: Greek Meaning: Immortal Pronunciation: At-hans Variations: Thanasis, Thanos Namesakes: Gary Athans, a former Canadian alpine skier who competed in the 1984 Winter Olympics. Popularity: Athans is a rare Greek family name internationally. Bakas derives from a Greek nickname for a small rotund man derived from the Albanian “baq” or “baqth,” meaning “lower belly.” Bakas is also said to derive from ancient Anglo-Saxon culture as a name given to a worker at the bake-house. Origin: Greek Meaning: He who has a big belly Pronunciation: Baa-Kaas Variations: Bakasa Namesakes: Amalia Bakas, a Greek singer and performer in the United States during the 20th-century who was heavily involved in the “Eighth Avenue scene” in New York City. Popularity: Bakas is most frequent in India. Besides India, it exists in 56 other countries but remains uncommon worldwide. Barbas derives the Greek word “barbas” or the Italian “barba,” meaning “uncle or man with a beard.” It may also be a reduced form of surnames beginning with Barba. Origin: Greek, Latin Meaning: A respectful term of address Pronunciation: bahr-buh Variations: Bacabas Namesakes: Carlos F. Barbas III, an American chemist known for his newly developed therapies that can target HIV-1 and some kinds of cancer, which went into clinical trials. Popularity: Barbas is an uncommon surname worldwide. Booras is a Greek surname derived from the Albanian “burre,” meaning “man, husband.” Booras is also an Americanized form of the Greek Bouras. Origin: Greek Meaning: Man, husband Pronunciation: BOO-rhas Variations: Boorase, Boras, Bouras Popularity: Booras is an uncommon surname and occurs mainly in North America, where 98% of people with this surname reside. Calimeris derives from the Greek greeting, Kalimera, which means “good morning,” with Kali meaning “good.” Origin: Greek Meaning: Good morning Pronunciation: Ka-lee-meh-rus Variations: Kalimeris, Calimeri, Calimeres Popularity: Calimeris is an uncommon surname worldwide. Caras derives from Karas, a Greek occupational name for a carter. Karas comprises two elements, “karo,” meaning “cart,”’ and the occupational suffix “as.” Karas is also used as a girl’s name and is a variant of Charis. Origin: Greek Meaning: Grace Pronunciation: kah-ras Variations: Karas Namesakes: Roger Andrew Caras, an American wildlife photographer, writer, and wildlife preservationist known for publishing more than 70 books. Popularity: Caras is most prevalent in the Philippines but remains an uncommon last name. Castellanos derives from the Greek Kastellanos, a derivative of “kastello,” meaning “castle.” In turn, Castellanos relates to the Late Latin “castellum,” a diminutive of “castrum,” meaning “fort,” describing a Roman walled city. In Spanish, Castellanos is a habitational name for any place called Castellanos, denoting a place inhabited by Castilians. Origin: Greek, Latin, Spanish Meaning: Castle, fort Pronunciation: kaas-teh-yAA-nohs Variations: Kastellanos Namesakes: Alejandro Luis Castellanos, an American professional baseball outfielder who played in Major League Baseball for the Los Angeles Dodgers. Popularity: Castellanos is fairly popular in Spanish-speaking countries and some English-speaking countries. Christoforou derives from the personal name Christophoros meaning “carrier of Christ.” Christoforou also means “one who is bearing Christ.” Origin: Greek Meaning: Son of Christophoros Pronunciation: Kris-too-for-ruh Variations: Christophorou, Christofourou, Christoforo Namesakes: Constantinos Christophorou, a Greek-Cypriot singer who represented Cyprus in the Eurovision Song Contest as a solo singer in 1996 and 2005. Popularity: Christoforou is most prevalent in Cyprus, where it is borne by 1 in 166 people. Chronis is a short form of Polychronis, a well-wishing name meaning “may he be long-lived.” The element “poly” means “much, many,” and “chronos” means “time” in Greek. Origin: Greek Meaning: Long lived Pronunciation: KHRAW-naws Variations: Cronis, Chrones Namesakes: Sarah Chronis, a Dutch actress known for her role in the TV series Onderweg naar morgen. Popularity: Chronis is fairly common in Greece. Cirillo is the Italian form of Cyril and derives from the Greek Kyrillos, meaning “lordly, masterful,” and “kyrios,” meaning “lord.” Cirillo also refers to a candlemaker who makes candles for religious services. This arises from Ciro referring to a wax taper or paschal candle, plus the diminutive suffix “illo.” Origin: Greek, Italian Meaning: Lordly, masterful Pronunciation: chee-REEL-lo Variations: Cyrillus, Kyriakos, Kyrillos Namesakes: Jeffrey Howard Cirillo, an American former Major League Baseball player known for his 112 home runs in his 14-season career. Popularity: Cirillo is fairly common worldwide, both as a given name and last name. Constantinides is a patronymic surname from the given name Konstantinos, derived from the Latin Constantinus. The “ides” patronymic was revived by Greeks from the Black Sea during the late 19th- and early 20th-centuries. Origin: Greek, Latin Meaning: The son of Konstantinos, Constantinos, Kostas, or Costas Pronunciation: Kon-stan-dee-nee-dez Variations: Constantinidis, Konstantinidis, Konstantinides Namesakes: Melina Eleni Kanakaredes Constantinides, an American actress known for her role in the TV drama series Providence. Popularity: Constantinides is fairly common in Cyprus and the Black Sea region. Contos is the Greek variant of Kontos, an Americanized form of the Hungarian Csontos, a nickname for a well-built man. Origin: Greek Meaning: Strong, well built, heavily built, bony Pronunciation: kAAnt-ohz Variations: Kontos, Csontos Namesakes: Theresa Ann Contos, an American former handball player who competed in the 1984 Summer Olympics. Popularity: Contos is prevalent in the Philippines, Ecuador, and parts of Spain but uncommon elsewhere. Costas is a Greek given name and surname. As a given name, Costas is an endearing nickname for Konstantinos. Origin: Greek Meaning: Constant, steady Pronunciation: kOHs-taas, KO-stas Variations: Kostakis, Kostas, Kostis Namesakes: Kostas Lazarides, a Greek-American country music songwriter known professionally as Kostas, who has written for many country music artists. Popularity: Costas is somewhat common as a given name and a surname. Danielopoulos, like many Greek family names, ends with “opoulos,” which simply means “descendant of” or “son of.” Origin: Greek Meaning: Son of Daniel Pronunciation: dAE-nih-yuhl-oh-pooh-loss Popularity: Danielopoulos is somewhat common in Cyrus but is a rare surname worldwide. Demetriou derives from the Greek Demetrios, depicted as a follower of Demeter, the Greek goddess of fertility. Demetriou was borne by several early Christian martyrs. Origin: Greek Meaning: Child of Demetrios Pronunciation: dih-mee-trEE-oo Variations: Dimitriou Namesakes: Jamie Demetriou, an English comedian and actor who won the Best Male Actor in a Comedy at the 2020 BAFTA Awards. Popularity: Demetriou is a fairly popular surname in Eastern Europe. Demos derives from the Greek Demosthenes and has strong roots in ancient Greek literature. Demos may also be a short form of the Italian Nicodemo derived from the Greek Nicodemus. Origin: Greek Meaning: The people Pronunciation: Dee-mos Variations: Dimos Namesakes: Tyson Demos, an Australian former professional basketball player who played nine seasons for the Gold Coast Blaze and Illawarra Hawks. Popularity: Demos is uncommon as a first name and surname worldwide. The Diakos family name became famous after Athanasios Diakos, who fought against the Ottoman occupation, was likened to King Leonidas. Diakos is related to the church due to Athanasios Diakos serving for five years as a deacon. Origin: Greek Meaning: Deacon Pronunciation: DEE-ah-kos Namesakes: Athanasios Diakos, a Greek military commander during the Greek War of Independence and a national hero. Popularity: Diakos features mostly in Greek, Cyprus, and the U.S. but is considered a rare surname. Economides is the patronymic form of Economos from the Greek “oikonomos,” meaning “steward.” The suffix “-ides” means “son or descendant of,” a classic trademark of Greeks from Asia Minor and Eastern Thrace. Origin: Greek Meaning: Son of the steward Pronunciation: ee-kn-oh-mee-dehz Variations: Economidis, Oikonomides, Oikonomidis Namesakes: Luc Economides, a French figure skater known as the 2019 Santa Claus Cup champion and 2018 French national junior champion. Popularity: Economides is an uncommon surname worldwide. Eliopoulos is a Greek patronymic surname derived from Helias, meaning “sun” and ending with the suffix “poulos.” The patronymic suffix “poulos” derives from the Latin “pullus,” meaning “nestling, chick.” Origin: Greek Meaning: Born of the sun Pronunciation: Eh-lee-oh-pooh-loss Popularity: Eliopoulos is an uncommon surname with the highest density in the United States. Florakis is composed of two names; Flor meaning “flower, blossom, or virginity,” and Akis meaning “from Crete.” Origin: Greek Meaning: Flower Pronunciation: floor-rah-kiss Variations: Flourakis, Florakos Namesakes: Charilaos Florakis, a Greek leader of the Communist Party of Greece (KKE), best known for dominating other left-wing elements and forming alliances with the conservatives. Popularity: Florakis occurs predominantly in Europe but is an uncommon surname. Frangos means “Frank,” referring to all Western Europeans or a Roman Catholic person, including ethnic Greek Catholics. Frangos is the short form of patronymics such as Frangopoulos, meaning “son of (the) Frank.” Origin: Greek Meaning: Frankish, French Pronunciation: FRAN-ghos Variations: Fragkos Namesakes: Andreas-Dimitrios Frangos, a Greek volleyball player who is part of the Greece men’s national volleyball team. Popularity: By density, Frangos is the most common in Cyprus, although it is a rare surname. Galanis derives from the Greek “galanos,” meaning “azure, milky,” or “blue.” Galanis is often used as a nickname for someone with pale blue eyes. Origin: Greek Meaning: Blue eyes, pale eyes Pronunciation: guhl-AA-nihs Variations: Galanos Namesakes: Demetrios Galanis, a Greek artist in the early 20th-century and friend of Picasso. Popularity: Galanis is a fairly common surname in Greece, where 1 in every 1,712 people carry the Galanis last name. Galanis also occurs in 36 other countries. Galatas derives from the Greek “gala” meaning “milk.” This “G” surname is occupational for someone who sells milk. The original surname was spelled Galatea, referring to sea foam on the banks of the Mediterranean Sea. Galatea was also the name of the Greek goddess of calm seas. Origin: Greek Meaning: Milkman, a seller of milk Pronunciation: ga-laa-tuss Variations: Gallatas, Galatos Popularity: Galatas is an uncommon surname worldwide. Ganas is an occupational name for a coppersmith, derived from the Greek “gana,” meaning “coating, verdigris.” Verdigris is the bright bluish-green oxidation that forms on copper or brass. Origin: Greek Meaning: Coppersmith Pronunciation: g-AE-nuhz Variations: Ganis Popularity: As a surname, Ganas is spread worldwide, with the highest concentration in South Africa. Georgiades is a Greek patronymic surname with both male and female variations of the surname. The male versions are Georgiades and Georgiadis while the female versions are spelled Georgiadi and Georgiadou. Origin: Greek Meaning: Son of George Pronunciation: GEH-AWR-GEE-AH-DEZ Variations: Georgiadis, Georgiadi, Georgiadou, Georgiade Namesakes: Nicholas Georgiade, an American actor best known for playing Agent Rico Rossi in the TV series The Untouchables. Popularity: Georgiades is most common in Cyprus but is an uncommon surname worldwide. Giannopoulos is a patronymic from the given name Giannis, a Greek version of the English John. Giannis derives from “Ioannes,” the Koine Greek translation of the biblical Hebrew Yohanan, meaning “God is gracious.” Origin: Greek Meaning: Son of John Pronunciation: GEE-anho-pooh-loss Variations: Giannopoulos, Yannopoulos, Yiannopoulos, Gianopoulo, Gianopulos Namesakes: Anastasios Giannopoulos, a Greek actor known as Kitsos in his movies. Popularity: Giannopoulos is borne by 1 in every 1,011 people in Greece and is somewhat common in the U.S., Australia, Canada, and Germany. Hallas is a Greek surname derived from the Turkish “halas.” This was a status name for someone exempt from paying rent or taxes. Hallas could also be an altered spelling of the Czech Halas, a nickname for a noisy person. Origin: Greek, Turkish, Czech Meaning: Exemption Pronunciation: Hall-Ass Variations: Halas Namesakes: Derek Hallas, an English former rugby union and professional rugby league player who played in the 1950s and 1960s. Popularity: Hallas is a common given name and surname worldwide. “Hasapi” means “butcher” in Greek. The Hassapiko dance originated as a ceremonial dance of the butchers’ guild of Constantinople. Origin: Greek Meaning: Butcher, meat seller Pronunciation: Hah-sap-is Variations: Hasapi Popularity: Hasapis is an uncommon last name worldwide. Hatzis is a modern version of the Greek Khatzis, meaning “pilgrim to Jerusalem.” This is considered a high social distinction and relates to the Arabic hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca. Origin: Greek, Arabic Meaning: Pilgrim to Jerusalem Pronunciation: HAHT-zes Variations: Chatzis, Hatzi, Chatzi Namesakes: Dimitrios Hatzis, a Greek novelist and journalist known for establishing Greek Studies in Hungary. Popularity: Hatzis is widespread but remains an uncommon surname worldwide. Iordanou derives from the name of the Jordan River in Hebrew, meaning “descend, flow down.” Iordanou began as a name for the illiterate class among the descendants of Jordan. Although this was initially viewed as an insult, Iordanou is now common in many languages. Origin: Greek Meaning: John Pronunciation: EY-or-dah-no Variations: Iordanous, Iordanu Popularity: Iordanou is most commonly heard in Cyprus, borne by 1 in 58 people. Iraklidis refers to the son of Herakles, also known as Hercules, and means “glory” or “pride of the goddess Hera.” Origin: Greek Meaning: Son of Herakles Pronunciation: EY-rak-lee-dezh Variations: Iraclidis Popularity: Iraklidis is a rare surname worldwide. Kalogeropoulos derives from the Greek term “kalogeros,” meaning “monk, friar.” The ending “poulos” derives from the Latin “pullus” and is commonly used in Peloponnese. Origin: Greek Meaning: Son of the monk, good old man Pronunciation: Kalo-gerrO-pooh-loss Variations: Calogheros, Kalogeropoulou Namesakes: Nikolaos Kalogeropoulos, a Greek politician who briefly served twice as Prime Minister of Greece. Popularity: Kalogeropoulos is prevalent in Peloponnese but is also noted in Canada, the U.S., and other countries worldwide. Karras is an occupational surname meaning “carter, cart driver” after the Greek root word “karo,” meaning “cart.” Karras is also a nickname for “karas,” meaning “black, dark.” The feminine form of Karras is Karra. Origin: Greek Meaning: Dark, cart driver Pronunciation: kAE-ruhz Variations: Karas, Carras, Caras Namesakes: Vasilis Karras, a Greek folk singer, and local legend, after the release of his 1980 album Alismonites Ores. Popularity: Karras is borne by more people in Greece than in any other country/territory and is a fairly common last name. Katopodis means “down” or “below” and derives from the Greek island Lefkada. Katopodis is also said to mean “one who runs away.” Origin: Greek Meaning: Down, below Pronunciation: kaa-toh-poh-dehs Variations: Katapodis, Katopodes, Katepodis Popularity: Katopodis is an uncommon last name worldwide. Katsaros began as a nickname given to someone with curly hair. The word itself means “curly,” ultimately derived from “akantheros,” meaning “thorny.” Katsaros is also a small town in a valley in Greece with less than 400 people. Origin: Greek Meaning: Curly Pronunciation: Kaets-AE-rohz Variations: Katsiaros, Katsaras, Catsaros Namesakes: Giorgos Katsaros, a Greek musician and songwriter famous for various recordings and collaborations. Popularity: Katsaros is an uncommon family name worldwide. Kouris is a Greek topographic surname for someone who lived in a forest. Kouris derives from the Northern Greek “kouri,” meaning “small forest, grove,” and ultimately from the Turkish “koru,” with the same meaning. Origin: Greek Meaning: Forest dweller Pronunciation: Ko-ris Variations: Kourris, Koutris Namesakes: Leonidas Kouris, a Greek politician known as the former mayor of Athens and prefect of Eastern Attica. Popularity: Kouris is uncommon and most prevalent in Europe, where 76% of people with the Kouris surname occur. Lambros derives from the classical Greek “lampros,” meaning “radiant, luminous, and brilliant.” Lambros is used for commemorating Easter, which is known as Lambri, “the bright day.” Origin: Greek Meaning: Shining, bright, radiant Pronunciation: LAEm-brohz Variations: Lampros, Lambrous, Lambro Namesakes: Lambros Konstantaras, a Greek film actor who appeared in 80 films between 1940 and 1981. Popularity: Lambros prevails mostly in the U.S. as a surname and given name but is uncommon worldwide. Laskaris is an occupational surname from the ancient and medieval Greek “laskaris.” Laskaris also stems from the Persian “laeshkaer,” meaning “army.” Laskaris was a noble surname from 1204 to 1261 when the Byzantine Greek Laskaris family ruled the Empire of Nicaea. When the Byzantine Empire was disestablished, the Laskaris family members lost their regal authority and spread across Europe. Origin: Greek Meaning: A kind of soldier Pronunciation: LAS-kaa-ris Variations: Liaskaris, Laskarris, Laskares, Lascaris Namesakes: Alexander Mark Laskaris, an American diplomat known for his ambassadorial duties in Chad and Guinea. Popularity: Laskaris is a rare surname worldwide, mostly used in Greece. Leos derives from Attic Greek “leos,” meaning “the people.” Attic Greek is an ancient Greek dialect, often called classical Greek. Leos is the pet form of Leon and a variant of the Spanish Leoz, a habitational name of Basque origin. Another possible origin could be from the Latin Leoni, derived from Leo or Leonios, meaning “lion.” Origin: Greek, Latin Meaning: Lion, the people Pronunciation: lee-ohs Variations: Leo, Leon Namesakes: Leos Carax, a French film director, critic, and writer known for his first major work, Boy Meets Girl, released in 1984. Popularity: Leos is more common as a given name than a surname but is rare worldwide, primarily found in the Americas. Levidis derives from the Hebrew Levi, meaning “joined, attached,” which gave rise to the meaning “son of Levi.” The Levidis Greek family were aristocrats in the 17th-century in the Byzantine Empire. They were known for their active roles in the Filiki Eteria secret society and their prominent role in the revolution to overthrow the Greek Ottoman Empire. Once revealed, the Levidis family members were sentenced to death. Those who escaped fled to Russia, where they continued the family name. Origin: Greek Meaning: Son of Levi Pronunciation: leh-vEE-dhees Variations: Lesvidis, Levidi, Lavidis Popularity: Levidis is rare among Greek last names. Loukanis derives from the Greek word “loukanika,” meaning “sausages.” Loukanis is an occupational surname given to a butcher or a sausage maker. Origin: Greek Meaning: Sausages Pronunciation: LO-kahn-nis Variations: Louganis, Lokanis, Lukanish Popularity: Loukanis is a rare surname worldwide and occurs mostly in Greece and North America. Lykaios is a Greek mythological name that stems from the word “lykos,” which means “wolf.” The epithet Lykaios or wolf-Zeus was assumed by Zeus only in connection with the Lykaia, an Arcadian festival, where Zeus was the festival’s patron. Origin: Greek Meaning: Wolfish, of a wolf, wolflike Pronunciation: lie-KYE-oss Variations: Lykaia Popularity: Lykaios is a rare surname worldwide and equally rare as a given name. Markopoulos is linked to Mark, an ancient name meaning “consecrated to the god Mars, or god of war.” Markopoulos is a patronymic from the personal name Markos, ending in “poulos” from the Latin “pullus,” meaning “nestling chick.” Origin: Greek Meaning: Son of Mark Pronunciation: mark-AW-poo-laws Variations: Markopoulou, Marcopoulos Namesakes: Fotini Markopoulou-Kalamara, a Greek theoretical physicist, design engineer and co-founder and CEO of Empathic Technologies. Popularity: Markopoulos is the most popular in Greece, although an uncommon surname. Mattiou refers to the “son of Matthias,” which means the “gift of god.” Mattiou is a form of the Latin Matthaeus, from the Hebrew Mattiyahu and the Greek Mathaios. Origin: Greek Meaning: Gift of God Pronunciation: MAT-tee-oh Variations: Matthiou, Matiou Popularity: Mattiou is found in the U.S., Greece, and the Netherlands but is uncommon worldwide. Mavros is a descriptive Greek name for someone with a dark complexion. It’s commonly used as a prefix with personal names, as well as a nickname and a male given name. Origin: Greek, Latin Meaning: Black, Moorish, poor fellow Pronunciation: mAAv-raws Variations: Mavrou, Mavras Namesakes: Thomas Mavros, a former Greek professional footballer who led his club AEK Athens to huge success during the ’70s and ’80s. Popularity: Mavros mostly occurs in Greece but is an uncommon surname worldwide. Michaelides is a Greek patronymic from the given name Michael. Michaelides may sound like a Spartan surname, but this would be a wrong assumption. The prefix “ides” is common among Spartan names, but this was before surnames were used. Spartans were only given a single name during the Archaic and Classical Periods. Origin: Greek Meaning: Descendant of Michael Pronunciation: Mike-all-eye-dus Variations: Michaelidies, Michelides Namesakes: Andreas Michaelides, a Cypriot football manager known for becoming the first manager in charge of all major teams in Cyprus. Popularity: Michaelides is most common in Cyprus, where the surname is borne by 1 in 237 people. The given name Michaelides is rare worldwide. Mikos derives from the Greek Michos, a pet form of Michael, meaning “who is like God.” Origin: Greek Meaning: Descendant of Michos Pronunciation: Miko, MEE-KO Variations: Mikosz, Migkos Popularity: Mikos is most prevalent in West Slavic Europe, particularly in Poland but is also found in 35 other countries. Moralis is the Greek form of the Spanish surname Morales. Moralis is a topographic surname originally derived from the Spanish word “mora,” meaning “mulberry.” Origin: Greek Meaning: Mulberry trees Pronunciation: MOO-rah Variations: Mouralis, Moiralis Namesakes: Yiannis Moralis, a Greek visual artist and part of the so-called “Generation of the ’30s.” Popularity: Moralis is spread across the globe but is an uncommon surname. Moustakas is a Greek surname presumed to relate to the physical features of wearing a mustache. Origin: Greek Meaning: A person with a mustache Pronunciation: moos-tAA-kaas Variations: Moustakeas, Mustakas, Moustakos Namesakes: Spyros Moustakas, a Greek writer of folklore books about the island of Lemnos. Popularity: Moustakas is a rare surname worldwide, mainly found in the U.S. and Australia. Mylonas is a Greek and Cypriot Greek family name meaning “miller.” The form Mylona is also used for female name-bearers. Origin: Greek Meaning: Miller Pronunciation: Mee-lo-nahs Variations: Milonas, Melonas, Mylona Namesakes: Konstantinos Mylonas, a Greek sports shooter known for competing at the 1948 and 1952 Summer Olympics. Popularity: Mylonas is fairly common in Greece and occurs in 39 other countries. Nephus stems from Greek mythology and is one of the Thespian sons of Heracles and Praxithea, daughter of King Thespius of Thespiae. Origin: Greek Meaning: A god’s son who will also become a god Pronunciation: Ne-fuss Variations: Nepuis, Nepusz Popularity: Nephus is a rare surname worldwide. Nicolaidis is a Greek patronymic surname beginning with N, equivalent to the English Nicholson or Nixon. The suffix “idis” means “son of or descendant of” and is a variant of the classical “ides,” which was revived in the 19th-century. Origin: Greek Meaning: Son of the conqueror Pronunciation: nee-kaw-laa-EE-dhees Variations: Nicolaides Nicolaidis Namesakes: Apostolos Nikolaidis, a Greek singer best known to record or re-record the authentic and prohibited rebetika songs in the early 1970s. Popularity: Nikolaidis or Nicolaidis is fairly common in Cyprus and appears in many Western countries. Nikolaou is a Greek Cypriot surname that translates to “victor of the people.” Nikolaou stems from the Christian Saint Nicolas, believed to be a protector of sailors and children on the island. Origin: Greek Meaning: Son of Nikolaos, victory of the people Pronunciation: nee-kaw-lAA-oo Variations: Nicolaos, Nicolaou Namesakes: Kyriacos Costa Nicolaou, a Cypriot-American chemist known for his research in the area of natural products total synthesis. Popularity: Nikolaou is popular in Cyprus, where it belongs to 1 in 82 people. Nikolas is a derivative of Nikolaos. In Greek mythology, Nike was the goddess of victory whose power was represented by her outstretched wings. Origin: Greek Meaning: Victorious people, army Pronunciation: nee-kAW-laas Variations: Nícolas, Nicholas Namesakes: Cynthia Nicholas, a Canadian long-distance swimmer who became the first woman to complete a two-way crossing of the English Channel. Popularity: Nikolas or Nicolas is a very common French surname and is a prevalent surname worldwide. Onassis is a modern Greek surname, also used as a boy’s name, yet is sometimes given to a baby girl. Another interesting namesake is Jacqueline Lee Bouvier, who married American Congressman John F. Kennedy in 1953. As the first lady, she was exemplified as an ambassador of goodwill. After Kennedy’s assassination, she married the shipping magnate Aristotle Socrates Onassis and became Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis. Origin: Greek Meaning: Lover Pronunciation: OH-nas-is Variations: Onasis, Onasiss Namesakes: Aristotle Socrates Onassis, a Turkish-born Greek shipping magnate who amassed the world’s largest privately-owned shipping fleet and was one of the world’s richest men. Popularity: Onasis is primarily found in Asia and most frequently used in Indonesia.

Othonos means Otto in Greek, which carries the meaning of the Germanic Otto. Otto the Great was considered the founder of the Holy Roman Empire. Origin: Cypriot Greek Meaning: Wealth, fortune Pronunciation: Oh-thor-nos Variations: Othonas, Othono Popularity: Othonos is most frequently used in Cyprus, but remains uncommon globally. Pagonis derives from the Greek “pagoni,” which means “peacock,” and is also a nickname for a vain or showy man. Origin: Greek Meaning: Peacock Pronunciation: PAH-go-ness Variations: Pagounis, Pagoni, Paganis Namesakes: Anastasia Pagonis, an American Paralympic swimmer who holds a world record and an American record. Popularity: Pagonis occurs predominantly in Europe but is an uncommon last name. In Greek mythology, Pallas was another name for Athena, the goddess of wisdom and the arts. As a girl’s name, Pallas is of Greek origin, meaning “wisdom.” Pallas was also used as a masculine name for some mythological characters. Origin: Greek Meaning: Wisdom, maiden, young woman Pronunciation: pAA-yaas Variations: Palla, Pallos, Pallais Namesakes: David Pallas, a Swiss former footballer known for the 21 league games he played for VfL Bochum. Popularity: Pallas is an uncommon surname worldwide. Panagos is an ancient Greek surname derived from the personal name Panagiotis, meaning “all holy.” This is a derivative of Panagia, which relates to the Virgin Mary, from “pan,” meaning “all,” and “hagia,” meaning “holy.” Origin: Greek Meaning: All holy Pronunciation: pa-na-gos Variations: Panagakis, Panagakos, Panagopoulos Popularity: Panagos is a rare surname worldwide. Pantazis derives from the Greek words “panta,” meaning “always,” and “zise” meaning “live.” Pantazis is a shortened version of the patronymic Greek surname Pantazopoulos. Origin: Greek Meaning: Always live, live forever Pronunciation: pahn-tah-ZEES, pan-TAY-zis Variations: Pantazzis, Pantazi Namesakes: Andreas Pantazis, a Greek triple jumper who represented Greece at the 2019 European Under-20 Championships, taking third place. Popularity: Pantazis is common in Greece and is also found in the U.S. and Australia. Papachristodoulopoulos is an ancient unabbreviated Greek surname that refers to someone who is a descendant of the priest and servant of Christ. This long surname may be abbreviated to Pappas, which is more commonly used. Origin: Greek Meaning: Descendant of the priest and servant of Christ Pronunciation: paa-paa-kris-to-do-lo-pooh-loss Popularity: Papachristodoulopoulos is a rare surname worldwide. Papamichael is a typical Cypriot Greek surname meaning “son of a priest named Michael.” Papamichael is also a status name meaning “Michael the priest,” derived from “papas,” meaning “priest.” Dimitris Papamichael married Aliki Vougiouklaki, and the couple co-starred in several films that marked the “golden era” of Greek cinema. Origin: Greek Meaning: Son of a priest named Michael Pronunciation: paa-paa-mee-haa-EEl Variations: Papamicael, Papamichail, Papmichael Namesakes: Dimitris Papamichael, a Greek actor and director known for his work in cinema. Popularity: Papamichael occurs predominantly in Europe and is most common in Cyprus, where it is carried by 1 in 840 people. Pappas is one of the more popular Greek family names that derive from “papas,” which means “priest” in Greek. Pappas is an occupational last name for a priest but may also refer to the title father. Origin: Greek Meaning: Priest Pronunciation: pAE-puhs Variations: Pappaas, Pappass, Papas, Pappa Namesakes: Alexi Pappas, a Greek-American athlete known for representing Greece at the 2016 Summer Olympics and setting the national record for the 10 000 meters. Popularity: Pappas is an uncommon family name worldwide, although one of the most popular Greek surnames. Pavlides derives from the given name Pavlos, the Greek form of Paul, meaning “son of Pavlos.” Pavlides is a Greek patronymic surname equivalent to the English Paulson. Origin: Greek Meaning: Son of Pavlos Pronunciation: PAV-lee-dezh Variations: Pavlidies, Pavlidis Namesakes: Harry Pavlidis, an Australian actor known for his roles in TV series that include Blue Heelers, Home and Away, and Outriders. Popularity: Pavlides appears most in Cyprus, where it is held by 1 in every 982 people. Petrakis derives from Petros, the Greek version of Peter, and is a patronymic with the diminutive suffix “akis.” This is typical for surnames from Crete, where it was massively adopted in the 19th-century. Origin: Greek Meaning: Descendant of little Petros, rock Pronunciation: peht-ray-kiss Variations: Petrackis, Patrakis, Petrakes Namesakes: Georgios Petrakis, a Greek businessman, partisan, and politician known as a leading figure in the Cretan resistance from 1941 to 1944. Popularity: Petrakis is most common in Crete, where 39% of people named Petrakis occur. Petrou is a Greek surname derived from Peter. Christ chose Peter, one of the disciples in the New Testament, to be “the rock” on which the church was built. Origin: Greek Meaning: Nickname for Peter in Greek Pronunciation: PEE-troo Variations: Petrous, Pettrou Namesakes: Kostas Petrou, a former British professional boxer of Greek Cypriot origin famous for being the British Welterweight Champion in 1985. Popularity: Petrou is a rare surname globally, mainly found in Greece. Raptis derives from the classical Greek word “raptein,” which means “to sew.” Raptis is an occupational name for a tailor. Origin: Greek Meaning: Tailor Pronunciation: ruhp-tEEs, Raf-tiss Variations: Raphtis, Rapti Popularity: Raptis is concentrated in Greece and southeastern Europe but is uncommon worldwide. Rellakis is a Greek occupational name for an embroiderer. Rellakis is a derivative of the Greek “reli,” meaning “hem, border,” derived from the Italian “reglio.” Origin: Greek Meaning: Embroiderer Pronunciation: Rah-lah-kiss Variations: Relaki, Rolakis, Ralakis Popularity: Rellakis is a rare last name worldwide. Remis is a medieval Greek name derived from the Latin Remigius. The Dutch and German origin mirrors the Greek origin. Remis stems from the Asturian-Leonese Remicio. The variant Remi is a gender-neutral given name. Origin: Greek, French, Germanic Meaning: Oarsman Pronunciation: Ree-miss Variations: Remi, Remie Popularity: Remis is found across Europe, and Slovakia has the highest number of people with the surname. Rosi is a Greek surname derived from the Latin Rosa, meaning “the flower rose.” It’s also the Greek feminine form denoting “the daughter or wife of.” Origin: Latin Meaning: Rose Pronunciation: roh-szee Variations: Rossi, Rosis, Rossis Namesakes: Rosi (Rosa) Mittermaier, a German alpine skier famous for being a double gold medallist at the 1976 Winter Olympics. Popularity: Rosi is an uncommon surname globally. Roussopoulos is a Greek surname used for Russian descendants. The patronymic suffix “poulos” derives from the Latin “pullus,” meaning “nestling, chick.” Origin: Greek Meaning: Red one, russet, of Russian descent Pronunciation: ROW-soo-pooh-loss Variations: Rousopoulos, Routsopoulos, Rosopoulos Namesakes: Carole Roussopoulos, a Swiss film director and feminist known for her pioneering early documentary films of the Women’s liberation movement in France. Popularity: Roussopoulos is mostly found in Europe and is somewhat common in Greece. Samaras is an occupational surname. It stems from the Greek word “samári,” meaning “saddle,” and refers to an ancestor who made saddles. Origin: Greek Meaning: Saddlemaker, saddler Pronunciation: saa-maa-rAAs Variations: Samauras, Samarase Namesakes: Timothy Samaras, an American engineer known for researching tornadoes, featured on the Discovery Channel show Storm Chasers. Popularity: Samaras is a rare family name worldwide, occurring mostly in Europe. Savas stems from the Greek Sabbas, the Greek version of the Holy Sabbath. The Late Greek Sabbas is most likely of Aramaic origin, meaning “old man grandfather.” Savas is also a Turkish masculine given name. Origin: Greek, Turkish Meaning: Sabbath Pronunciation: sae-vihs Variations: Shavas, Sauvas, Savass Popularity: Savas is most prevalent in the U.S. but is an uncommon surname worldwide. Scala is a Greek and Italian topographic surname meaning “ladder, flight of steps.” Scala is a habitational name given to someone who lived by a flight of steps or on terraced land. Origin: Greek, Latin Meaning: Ladder, steps, stairway Pronunciation: skAE-luh Variations: Scalia, Scalas, Scalea, Scalla Namesakes: Delia Scala, an Italian ballerina, actress, and singer known for her leading role in the Nascent Commedia Musicale. Popularity: Scala is not a frequently used last name and occurs mostly in Europe. Selinofoto derives from the Greek “selinófoto” for “moonlight.” Selinofoto could have originated as a habitational surname from a historical region in the southwestern corner of Crete. Selino is a known as a remote area in the foothills of Lefka Ori or the White Mountains. Origin: Greek Meaning: Moonlight Pronunciation: see-lee-noh-pho-tow Popularity: Selinofoto is a rare surname worldwide. Stefanopoulos is a Greek patronymic of the given name Stefanos, with “poulos,” meaning “son of.” Origin: Greek Meaning: Son of Stefan Pronunciation: stEHf-uh-noh-pooh-loss Variations: Stefanoupoulos, Stefanapoulos, Stephanopoulos Namesakes: Konstantinos Stephanopoulos, a Greek conservative politician who served as the president of Greece from 1995 to 2005. Popularity: Stefanopoulos is somewhat common in Greece and Western countries. Teresi is a derivative of the Greek Theresia. Teresi is associated with Artemis, the Greek mythological goddess of hunting. Teresi is a metronome from the female given name Teresa. Origin: Greek, Italian Meaning: Hunting Pronunciation: ter-EH-see Variations: Theresi, Terezis Namesakes: Dick Teresi, an American writer and co-author of The God Particle. Popularity: Teresi is somewhat common in Sicily but rare worldwide. Thanos is the short form of the Greek Athanasios, which means “immortal.” Thanos is also a Greek masculine given name. In ancient Greek mythology, Thanatos was the son of Nyx, the goddess of night, and the brother of Hypnos, the god of sleep. Origin: Greek Meaning: Immortal Pronunciation: thAA-naws Variations: Theanos Namesakes: Konstantinos Thanos, a Greek wrestler known for participating in the 2000 Summer Olympics in Athens. Popularity: Thanos is somewhat popular in Greece as a given name and surname. Theodoropoulos derives from the Greek “theos,” meaning “God,” and “doron,” meaning “gift.” Theodoropoulos is an old Macedonian last name also prevalent in the Southern Balkans, Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro, and Greece. Origin: Greek Meaning: Son of Theodore Pronunciation: Thee-o-dor-op-pou-lus Variations: Theodoropoulous, Theodoropoulou, Theodooropoulos, Theodoropulos Namesakes: Vicky Theodoropoulou, a Greek writer who was awarded the Maria Ralli Prize for her first novel, Letter from Dublin. Popularity: Theodoropoulos is somewhat common in Greece and also found in 29 other countries. Tomaras is an occupational name for a tanner from the medieval Greek Tomaras, derived from “tomari,” meaning “hide skin.” The word “tomari” is also a Greek nickname meaning “rascal” or “blackguard.” Origin: Greek Meaning: Tanner Pronunciation: To-maa-raas Variations: Toumaras, Thomaras, Tomara Popularity: Tomaras is most prevalent in Greece but is not a common surname. Trakas derives from the Greek “traka,” from the Italian “attaccare.” Trakas in Greek slang means “sponging” or “living at another’s expense.” Origin: Greek Meaning: Crash, collision Pronunciation: Trey-Kas Variations: Tragkas, Trakkas, Trakos Namesakes: Sotirios Trakas, a Greek diver who competed in the 10-meter platform events at the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens. Popularity: Trakas is an uncommon surname worldwide. Vasilakis is the modern Greek diminutive of Vasilios and Vasilis, derived from the classical Greek Basileios, meaning “royal.” The diminutive suffix “akis” is typical for surnames from Crete. Vasilakis is typically only used informally and does not necessarily appear on birth certificates. Origin: Greek Meaning: Royal Pronunciation: VAA-see-laa-kiss Variations: Vassilakis, Vasilakes Namesakes: Panayiotis Vassilakis, a self-taught Greek artist known for his kinetic sculptures. Popularity: Vasilakis is concentrated in Crete but is uncommon worldwide. Vidales stems from the personal name Vidal, derived from the Latin Vitalis, with “vita,” meaning “life.” Origin: Spanish, Latin Meaning: Son or descendant of Vidal Pronunciation: Vee-dah-less Variations: Vidalies, Vidalis Namesakes: Luis Vidales, a Colombian poet, and writer known as a founding member of the literary group Los Nuevos. Popularity: Vidales occurs mostly in Mexico but is an uncommon surname worldwide. Vouvali derives from the Greek “vouvalis,” meaning “antelope,” or “vouvalos,” meaning “buffalo.” Origin: Greek Meaning: Antelope, buffalo Pronunciation: VOW-vaa-lee Variations: Vovali, Vouvoulis, Vavalis, Vovolis Popularity: Vouvali occurs in Greece, the U.S., and England but is a rare last name. Xenos derives from the Greek “xenos,” meaning “stranger, newcomer.” Xenos is used as a nickname but rarely as a given name. “Xeno” is added to the front of a name to create composite names like Xenokostas, meaning “Kostas, the newcomer.” Origin: Greek Meaning: Stranger, newcomer Pronunciation: zee-nohs Variations: Xeno, Xenou, Xynos Popularity: Xenos is an uncommon surname and occurs mostly in Greece. Xiphias derives from the Greek “xiphos,” meaning “sword,” and from the Latin “xiphias,” meaning “swordfish.” Origin: Greek Meaning: Swordfish Pronunciation: Zie-fee-ass Namesakes: Nikephoros Xiphias, a Byzantine military commander who played a distinguished role in the conquest of Bulgaria and the 1014 Battle of Kleidion. Popularity: Xiphias is a rare last name worldwide. Zafeiriou is a Greek patronymic surname meaning “son of Zafeiris,” but is also the name for the sapphire gemstone. Zafeiriou is a rare surname with little available information. Origin: Greek Meaning: Son of Zafeiris Pronunciation: ZAA-fee-ree-oh Variations: Zafeireiou, Zafiriou, Zaferiou Namesakes: Eleni Zafeiriou, a Greek film actress known for appearing in 108 films between 1951 and 1996. Popularity: Zafeiriou is predominantly found in Europe and is an uncommon surname. Zenon is a derivative of Zeus, the Greek god of the sky, and also means “guest or host.” Zenon is both a surname and a masculine given name in the form of Zenas and Zeno. Origin: Greek Meaning: Hospitable, gift of Zeus Pronunciation: zeh-nawn Variations: Zenone, Zeanon, Zeno, Zinon, Zenios Namesakes: Zenon Konopka, a former Canadian professional ice hockey player best known as Zenon the Destroyer throughout his National Hockey League career. Popularity: As a Greek last name, Zenon is prevalent in central and North America but is considered rare. Zervas is a Greek surname derived as a pet form of the Latin Servatius. It’s also a Greek variant of the given name Zervos. Origin: Greek Meaning: Left-handed Pronunciation: Zer-vas, ZEHR-vas Variations: Zervaas, Zeervas, Zerva Namesakes: Arizona Zervas, an American rapper and singer known for his song Roxanne which reached number four on the Billboard Hot 100 in 2019. Popularity: Zervas is somewhat common in Greece but rare elsewhere. Zika is a pet form of Zikas, from the male given name Zissis. This relates to an omen name from the phrase “na zissis,” meaning “may he live.” Interestingly, a male child born after the death of an elder brother would be named Zissis. Origin: Greek Meaning: May he live Pronunciation: Shi-kah Variations: Tzika Namesakes: Adolf Zika, a Czech photographer known for his photographic work in both commercial photography and the fashion industry. Popularity: Zika is a rare surname globally, although found in 75 different countries. Zographos is a combination of two words – “zoe,” meaning “life,” and “graphein,” meaning “write.” Zographos is an occupational name for a painter or miniaturist. Origin: Greek Meaning: Painter, miniaturist Pronunciation: Zo-grah-foss Variations: Zografos, Zogrephos Namesakes: Panagiotis Zographos, a Greek painter who, under General Makriyannis, produced several scenes from the Greek battle for independence. Popularity: Zographos is a rare surname worldwide. Feedback: Was This Article Helpful? Thank You For Your Feedback! Thank You For Your Feedback! Greek surnames or last names gained prominence in the 19th century, primarily after the Greek War of Independence. These names can help in identifying the ancestry of an individual. Greek surnames have different roots, origins, and histories of development. Most surnames were influenced by family names or paternal and maternal names. However, many Greek surnames have also originated from the father’s first names, and a few are occupational surnames (1). Keep scrolling as well bring you a long list of some famous Greek surnames. Greek surnames or last names have long histories, some dating back hundreds of years, including family names, patronyms, and matronyms. Greek last names often indicate a person’s familial origin, preserving clues to ancestral roots even when modified. Adamos, Bouras, Diakos, and Hatzi are a few common Greek surnames. The surnames or last names in Greece are often indicators of the origin of the individual. There are many instances where the last name is modified but yet implies their origin. An example is the last name ‘Demetriou,’ which can be traced back to someone whose surname was originally ‘Demetrios.’For women, the surnames change to a feminine version of the original masculine surname. These masculine surnames are often patronyms, indicating a person’s father’s name. While men carry patronymic surnames, women carry feminine versions of the same, which they can change to their husband’s family name after marriage.Greek last names also feature distinct suffixes. One can learn the place of origin and probably family history through the suffix alone. For example, ‘–akis’ refers to a person from Crete, ‘–ellis’ means the person likely came from Dodecanese islands, ‘–opoulos’ for a man coming from the Peloponnese peninsula, ‘-idis’ denotes the person is a ‘descendant of’ someone. The ‘-iadis’ suffix belongs to people from Messinia or Lakonia while ‘-oudas’ is for people from North Greece (Macedonia).Prefixes of a surname could tell you about the origin of the person too while also telling something about a physical attribute or a profession. For instance, a surname beginning with ‘Kara’ implies that it belongs to someone in the East or Asia Minor as ‘kara’ refers to ‘black’ in the Turkish language. The prefix ‘konto’ means ‘short,’ and ‘papa’ means ‘someone who descended from priests.’ Greek surnames are thus interesting to know as they say a lot about Greek ancestry and tradition.In Greek, this surname means ‘the son of Adam.’ The surname holds biblical and religious significance as it is linked to Adam, the first man in Judeo-Christian tradition (2).Image: iStockThis surname means ’eagle’ in Greek. The eagle holds significance in Greek mythology as it was the emblem of the Greek God Zeus (3). It is also revered as a symbol of divine strength and power.This is a patronymic name given to the people who likely descended from the historical figure named Agathangelos. He was an early Christian historian who wrote down the historical events in Armenia. The Greek surname Agathangelos means ‘messenger of good news (4).’This last name means ‘the one that never laughs’ in Greek. This term may have been linked to individuals who were known for their solemn demeanor. It may have also been a nickname for a serious or stern individual.It is derived from the personal name Alexios and the patronymic ending poulos. The name Alexios belonged to several Byzantine emperors. The most notable name bearer was Alexios I Komnenos (1048–1118), who founded the Komnenian dynasty and strengthened the Byzantine Empire.In Greek, this surname means ‘manly.’ It is believed to be derived from the Greek name Andreas.This last name is also derived from the name Andreas with a suffix, -akis hinting at its Cretan roots. It is more prevalent in the Australian Greek communities.This name is derived from Angelos, shortened from Evangelos with the patronymic ending ‘poulos.’ As a surname, Angelopoulos is well-known in modern Greece. The renowned Greek filmmaker Theo Angelopoulos, whose works explored Greek history and identity, was a popular namesake.This surname is a commonly used one and means ’angel’ in Greek. The Angelos family ruled parts of the Byzantine Empire in the late 1100s. Emperor Isaac II Angelos (1156–1204) was one of their notable members.In Greek, Ariti means ‘someone approachable, friendly, or generous.’ The surname is often linked to the Greek term Arete, indicating ‘excellence in moral virtue.’Artino is a habitational name given to someone who belonged to the city of Arta. Arta, the 13th-century capital of the Despotate of Epirus, played a significant role in Byzantine and post-Byzantine history (5). The city is known for the legendary Bridge of Arta, a structure linked to a poignant folk ballad about a builder’s sacrifice.Athanasiou is a patronymic surname meaning ‘son of Athanasios.’ The Greek name Athanasios means ‘immortal.’This common surname means ‘gypsy’ or ‘heathen’ in Greek. The surname is likely associated with the Athinganoi, a medieval Byzantine group often linked to itinerants (6).This is a Greek last name derived from a Turkish word, which means ‘coppersmith.’ The occupational surname may have been given to families who worked with copper. These artisans may have been skilled craftspeople, creating and working with copper items like pots, pans, and other tools or decorative objects.This is a Latin origin name and means ‘a coarse and reddish-brown woolen cloth with long hair.’ It is an occupational surname for someone in the wool business. Wool trading flourished in ancient Greece and was considered a luxury item.This Greek last name means ‘happy’ and is of Thracian or Dacian origin. Since the surname means happy, it is likely to have been a nickname before being used as a surname.This Greek surname originated from the greeting ‘Kalimera,’ which means ‘Good morning.’ This surname may have started as a nickname for a cheerful person or someone who greeted others warmly. It could also have been an occupational name for an innkeeper or merchant who regularly interacted with and greeted many people.This surname means ‘pure.’ It is also common in Spanish and Portuguese-speaking countries. In Greek culture, purity holds significance both religiously and philosophically as it is connected to moral goodness and being favored by the Gods.This surname is an Americanized version of Tsakonas and means ‘an inhabitant of the eastern side of Peloponnese.’ Tsakonian is one of the oldest surviving languages in human history (7). The Tsakonians were historically regarded as skilled mariners and guardians, probably serving as naval personnel and protectors during the Byzantine Empire.This is another commonly used Greek surname, which refers to the color ‘green.’ In ancient Greece, the color green is connected to nature and is considered a symbol of life and renewal. It means a ‘descendant of Christ’s servant.’ If you are looking for religious last names that start with C, you can consider Christodoulopoulos.A variation of the name Christophoros, which means one who is ’bearing Christ.’ The name may have gained prominence due to Saint Christopher, the patron saint of travelers.It is derived from ‘Chronos’ – ‘time’ or ‘year’ in Greek. The exact history of this surname is not known but many believe that it has been adopted as an occupational surname by calendar keepers, astrologers, or historians.This ancient Greek name means the ‘descendant of John and Christ.’ The name may have been the surname of church leaders or clergy.This is a Greek surname, from an Italian origin. The name means ’lordly’ or ‘masterful.’ This may be a good choice for parents looking for Italian last names. Based on the meaning of the surname, it could have been linked to noble or landowning families in both Greek and Italian cultures.This Greek surname means ‘son of Daniel.’ Daniel itself means ‘God is my judge.’ With such a deep religious meaning, the surname could be associated with religious scholars and clergies or communities that valued biblical teachings.It means ‘deacon’ in Greek. Deacon is a member of the clergy. Athanasios Diakos, a national hero in the Greek War of Independence, was a famous name-bearer.This Greek name means ‘diamonds’ in Greek. Associated with a precious stone, the surname might have been given to Greeks who were jewelers, traders, or miners.Dougenis is derived from the words ‘doulos’ meaning ‘slave’ or ‘servant’ and ‘genes’ meaning ‘being born.’ It may have been a surname adopted by those who served nobility or religious institutions.Doukas is a Medieval Greek surname derived from ‘doukas’ meaning ‘duke’ or a ‘lord.’ The Doukas family was a prominent ruling dynasty of the Byzantine Empire. Many emperors and military leaders belonged to this family and were known for playing a pivotal role in shaping Greek and European history.Image: iStockThis name comes from the Greek word Drakon, which means a ‘dragon’ or an ‘ogre.’ In Greek culture, dragons were seen as powerful and wise creatures, often depicted as guardians of treasures and formidable opponents for heroes in legendary battles.This surname is the Greek variant of the Slavic word drvo and means ‘tree.’ It could also be a variant of Grivas. The term Grivas is a Greek nickname for a grey-haired man or someone who owned a grey horse.This common Greek surname means ‘son of the duke’ or ‘little duke.’ Greek-American lawyer and politician Michael Dukakis is a famous bearer who ran for the US presidency in 1988. This is an occupational surname given to a steward or anyone who manages a property. The surname is derived from the Greek word ‘oikonomos,’ which means ‘steward.’ This Greek surname is derived from the Hebrew name Eliyahu and means ‘Lord of God’ or ‘Jehovah of God.’This is a Greek form of the personal name Filip, which means ‘friend of the horses.’ The surname might have originated as a nickname for someone who tended horses.This Greek surname has two parts and Flor means ‘flower’ or ‘blossom’ and akis means originating from Crete. Representing Greece’s rich botanical landscape, the surname probably belonged to families engaged in agriculture, floriculture, or herbal medicine.This Greek surname means ‘descendant of Frank.’ The term Frangos was used to describe Catholics or Western Europeans living in Greece.It is related to the name Frangopoulos which means ‘descendant of a Frank’ in Greek. The surname indicates descent from Catholic settlers or merchants who gradually became part of Greek society.This is a Greek surname for someone who has ‘pale blue eyes.’ The surname originates from ‘galanos,’ the Greek word for ‘pale blue’ or ‘azure.’ The surname was likely given to individuals with striking light blue eyes.This is an occupational surname for people who sell milk. Gala in Greek means ‘milk.’ Galatas is also the name of a town in the eastern Peloponnese region of Greece.Gataki means ‘kitten’ in Greek. In ancient Greece, cats were regarded as protectors and symbols of good fortune.It is an occupational Greek surname for those who work as ‘coppersmiths.’ This surname may have been adopted by Greek artisans who specialized in working with copper to create tools, cookware, and decorative items.This surname is given to people from Germany, particularly immigrants from Germany or people who had business connections with German-speaking lands. It means ‘wife of Georgios.’ In early modern Greece, a married woman’s surname was usually a combination of her husband’s name and the suffix ‘-aina.’It is derived from the Greek word ‘chasapi’ that means ‘butcher.’ Butchers held an important place in ancient Greek markets, providing a consistent meat supply often prepared according to regional traditions and religious dietary laws. Did you know?Papadopoulos is another unique Greek last name, which means ‘son of a priest.’A Greek annotation of Hajj, which means a ‘person who has completed a pilgrimage.’ As a surname, it is seen as a symbol of faith and devotion. Hatzis is a modern version of the Khatzi’s, which in Greek means a ’pilgrim to Jerusalem.’ The surname is related to the Greek surname ‘Hatzi.’ This Greek surname is used as a nickname for the term ‘fat’ and is a shortened form of the surname ‘Khondros.’ Hondros is used as a prefix and is added to given names.This name originates from the Jordan River’s name in Hebrew. It means to ‘descend’ or ‘flow down.’ The river Jordan has deep biblical significance, as it is the site where John the Baptist baptized Jesus (8).This name refers to the ‘son of Herakles.’ Herakles (also known as Hercules) means ‘glory/pride of the Goddess Hera.’ The surname Iraklidis may be connected to the ancient Dorian kings Heracleidae, who claimed descent from Herakles as part of their divine right to rule.This surname is the shortened form of the Greek name Kallistos and means ‘best.’ It is a reminder of ancient Greek culture’s admiration for excellence.This Greek surname is a combination of two Greek words, Kalon meaning ‘beautiful’ and ergon meaning ‘work’ or ‘accomplishment.’ The Kallergis family was one of the most powerful families in Cretan history, especially during the Venetian period. They were recognized for their contributions to both governance and resistance against Ottoman occupation.This Greek last name is derived from ‘kalogeros,’ which means ‘monk.’ It is believed to be linked to individuals who lived religious or ascetic lives. This surname in Greek means ‘son of the monk’. It is derived from the Greek term kalogeros, which means ‘monk’ or ‘friar.’This Greek last name means ‘black John.’ The name may have originated as a description of someone with dark features or hair. It means a ‘carter’ or ‘cart driver’ since the Greek root word for the surname is ‘Karo’ (cart). Karras is thus an occupational Greek last name.In Greek, this word means ‘down’ or ‘below.’ This surname refers to ‘the guy who ran away.’ This surname may have been given to someone who fled a battle, town, or even the law.Katsaros is a name given to a person with curly hair in Greek. The word itself means ‘curly.’ In Greek culture, curly hair was considered beautiful. Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love, was known for her beautiful, stylized curls. Kazan is a reduced form of Kazandis, which means ‘people who make cauldrons.’ It is an occupational surname given to people who make cauldrons or use a cauldron for the distillation of ouzo or raki – both alcoholic beverages.This surname is after a popular place in Greece. People belonging to Constantinople usually have this surname. Perhaps Greeks who migrated from the city, especially after the fall of Constantinople in 1453, carried this surname to honor their origins.The Greek last name means ‘the color red.’ This surname may have been given to someone with red hair or a ruddy complexion. It could also be linked to someone who worked with red dyes.In Greek, Kouris means ‘someone who lived in a forest.’ The surname may be connected to people who lived in the rural or mountainous regions of Greece.It is a Greek surname meaning ‘of the Lord.’ The root word Kyrios, meaning ‘Lord,’ is often associated with Christianity. So, the surname may have belonged to families with strong ties to the church.In Greek, Laskaris means ‘a kind of soldier.’ The Laskaris family was a noble Byzantine line that established and ruled the Empire of Nicaea. This dynasty played a crucial role in maintaining Byzantine culture and heritage until Constantinople was eventually reclaimed.This surname originates from Leka, an Albanian personal name. It means ‘Alexander.’ The name Alexander is famously linked to Macedonian king Alexander the Great, whose legacy shaped much of the ancient world.This surname is derived from Leon, which means ‘Lion.’ In Greek culture, the lion was a symbol of power and strength.This Greek name means ‘son of Levi.’ Levi means ‘joined’ or ‘attached,’ and the word originates from Hebrew. The aristocratic Levidis family traces its origins to the Byzantine Empire, originating from Constantinople. They played a prominent role in the historical affairs of the Ottoman Empire, the Russian Empire, Wallachia, Egypt, and Greece.This surname originates from the Greek word ‘loukanika,’ meaning ‘sausages.’ Loukanis is an occupational surname given to a butcher or a sausage maker.This surname comes from the Greek word ‘Lykos,’ which means ‘wolf.’ In ancient Greek culture, wolves were both respected and feared. They were considered the divine messengers of the god. One of the most well-known legends is that of King Lycaon, who, according to myth, was transformed into a wolf by Zeus as a form of punishment.It means ‘trowel’ and is an occupational name for bricklayers. The surname may have been given to highly skilled craftsmen, essential in constructing temples, homes, and fortifications.It means ‘made of stone’ or ‘stonewall.’ This surname is common in the region of Sparta in Greece. It may be given to families that were involved in building the sturdy walls that protected villages from invaders. It is derived from the Greek word ‘maniki’ meaning a ‘handle’ or a ‘sleeve.’ It is an occupational name given to people who make handles.This Greek surname means ‘son of Mark.’ Mark is an ancient name meaning ‘consecrated to the god Mars’ or the ‘god of war.’ This family name could have originated from Roman settlers who became part of the Greek community.This surname means ‘little soldier’ or ‘warlike’ and is a form of the name Marcellus. The history of this surname is not popularly known, but it is believed to have belonged to families who offered military service.It is a Greek surname of unknown origin. It is most common in the country of Cyprus.This means ‘bat’ in Greek. Bats have long been linked to darkness, death, and the supernatural. The ancient Greeks believed bats were connected to the underworld and held sacred by Persephone, the goddess who ruled there. Similarly, the Maya believed that souls traveling to the underworld had to pass through a bat-filled cave called Zotzilaha. In some folklore, bats flying near a house were seen as an omen of death (9).The name refers to the ‘son of Matthias.’ The Greek name Matthias means the ‘gift of God.’ Families with this surname probably had some religious or clerical ancestors, as biblical names were mostly given to those in monastic or priestly traditions.Image: iStockThis name is derived from the Greek word metaxi, which means ‘silk’ or ‘a person who deals in silk.’ American author and radio host Eric Metaxas is a popular namesake.This surname is associated with the Greek name Melissa, meaning ‘bee’ or ‘bee keeper.’ The ancient Greeks believed bees to be the messengers between the gods and humans, associating them with Artemis, the goddess of the hunt and wilderness. Her priestesses were called Bees, highlighting this divine connection. Moralis is a Greek form of the Spanish surname ‘Morales.’ It is likely to be derived from the Spanish word ‘moreras,’ that stands for ‘mulberry trees.’It is a descriptive nickname derived from the vocabulary element, ‘nanos’ meaning ‘dwarf.’ This surname may have been given to someone of short stature.Nephus in Greek means ‘a God’s son who will also become a God.’ The surname represents the ancient belief in demigods and heroic ancestry.Nikolaou means the ‘son of Nikolaos.’ Nikolaos means ‘victory of people’ in Greek. Greek footballer Dimitrios Nikolaou is a popular namesake.In Greek, ‘Nomikos’ means ‘relating to law’ or ‘legal.’ It may have been the surname of a family in the legal profession for generations.This Greek surname means ‘lover.’ The variant surname was famously borne by the Greek and Argentine businessman Aristotle Onassis, who was one of the most successful shipping magnates of the 20th century.It is a Greek surname derived from Otto, meaning ’wealth’ or ‘fortune.’ This last name might have been adopted by people who supported King Otto, the first modern king of Greece, who was a prince from Bavaria. It is a Greek surname derived from Otto, meaning ’wealth’ or ‘fortune.’Pachis means ‘fat’ or ‘thick’ in Greek. This surname may have been used as a descriptive nickname for someone with a robust physique.This Greek surname is derived from the word Pagoni, which means ‘peacock.’ The surname may have belonged to someone known for their beauty and elegance.This surname is derived from the Greek name Palmiere, which translates to ‘pilgrim.’ This surname may have been adopted by those who traveled on religious journeys.It is an ancient Greek surname meaning ‘all holy.’ The surname may have been given to those who served in religious institutions or communities dedicated to the church.Pantazis is a Greek surname which means ‘always live’ or ‘live forever.’ The surname indicates the Greek ideals of immortality through heroism or virtue. Did you know?Derived from Peter, Petrou is also a popular Greek surname. Greek-born British computer scientist Maria Petrou (1953–2012) was a famous bearer of this last name.This ancient Greek surname refers to someone who is a ‘descendant of the Priest and Servant of Christ.’ The surname must have been given to families with clerical ancestors.Papamichael means the ‘son of a priest named Michael.’ This surname reflects the Greek custom of honoring religious figures. Saint Michael, as an archangel, holds a significant place in Greek Orthodox Christianity.This Greek surname means ‘a badass man.’ The surname might have originated as a nickname for individuals known for their strength, courage, or reputation.It’s another common Greek surname meaning ’son of the Priest.’ Greek music artist Nikos Papazoglou and footballer Athanasios Papazoglou are a few noteworthy personalities bearing this surname.Pappas is derived from ‘Papas,’ which means ‘Priest’ in Greek. This surname probably belongs to families with religious ancestry.This Greek surname means ‘son of Pavlos.’ Pavlos is a Greek form of Paul. The name Pavlos may be popular due to the influence of Saint Paul’s missionary work in Greece.This is an ancient Greek surname which means ’descendant of a Persian.’ The surname probably belongs to those Persian immigrants or soldiers who settled in Greece.The surname is derived from the Greek name Petros, meaning ‘stone.’ The name is the Greek version of Peter, which is famously associated with Saint Peter, one of Jesus’ apostles (10).This is an occupational surname for a tailor. It is derived from the classic Greek name ‘raptein,’ which means ‘to sew.’ The surname is associated with craftsmanship.This surname originates from ‘Remigius’ a Greek name prevalent during the medieval period. It is derived from the Latin name Remigis, meaning ‘rower’ or ‘oarsman.’Image: iStockA Greek surname derived from Rosa, which means ‘the flower rose.’ The rose holds significance in Greek mythology as it is often associated with Aphrodite, the goddess of love.This Greek surname means and is used for ‘Russian descendants.’ The surname probably belonged to Russian settlers or merchants who established ties with Greek cities.This Greek surname means a ‘saddler’ or a ‘saddle maker.’ In ancient Greece, skilled artisans crafted saddles for warriors and traders, and saddle makers were highly valued, as horses were a primary means of transportation.It means ‘blonde’ or ‘fair-headed.’ This Greek surname has a Turkish origin. This surname most likely belonged to individuals with strikingly fair hair, distinguishing them from the darker-haired majority. It originates from ‘Sabbas,’ which is the Greek version of the holy ‘Sabbath.’ The word ‘Sabbath’ also refers to the day ‘Saturday.’This surname in Greek means ‘ladder’ or ‘steps’ or ‘stairway.’ Based on its meaning, the surname could be a symbol of progress or ascension.This Greek surname means ‘moonlight.’ The moon held special significance in Greek culture and was often associated with Artemis, the goddess of the hunt and the moon.This Greek surname means ‘descendant of a Serb.’ This surname suggests historical connections between Greeks and Serbians.It means ‘curly-haired’ in medieval Greek. The name is derived from the Greek word gyros (round).’ Leo Sgouros is a famous historical figure with this name. He was a Byzantine lord who fiercely resisted the Fourth Crusade’s invasion of Greece in the 13th century.The surname has its origin in the Greek word ‘sidero’ that means ‘iron.’ The surname refers to a wishful phrase ‘may the child grow up to be as strong as iron.’ It may have been associated with blacksmiths or warriors.This surname in Greek means ‘son of Stefan.’ The surname is linked to the Greek Stephanos, meaning ‘crown’ or ‘wreath.’ Having royal and victorious connotations, the surname is often associated with rulers and Olympic champions.It is the short form of the Greek name ‘Athanasios,’ which means ‘immortal.’ The surname symbolizes endurance and eternal life.This means ‘son of Theodoros.’ Theodoros is the Greek word for the phrase ‘God-given’ or ‘God’s gift.’Image: iStockThis Greek surname means ‘peacock.’ The peacock is considered sacred in Greek mythology and is linked to the Goddess Hera.It means ‘God.’ Suggesting a divine connection, the surname could have originated from a religious order or a family with strong spiritual ties.This surname is derived from ‘Vasilikos’ – the Greek word for ‘Basil.’ The surname is often linked to the Greek Orthodox Church, where basil is used in blessings and ceremonies.In Greek, ‘Voulgaros’ means ‘Bulgarian.’ Voulgaropoulos thus refers to the ‘descendant of a Bulgarian.’ The surname indicates the historical migrations and interactions between Greek and Bulgarian communities.In Greek, this surname means ‘buffalo.’ This surname may have been an occupational surname belonging to those involved in farming or animal husbandry.It means ‘swordfish’ in Greek. The surname could be connected to coastal fishing communities in Greece.The Greek surname means ‘son of Yianni.’ Yianni is a variant of the Hebrew name Yohanan or the English name John, meaning ‘God is gracious.’‘Zafeiri’ is the Greek name for the gemstone ‘sapphire.’ When used as a surname, it means ‘son of Zafeiris.’ In Greek culture, sapphires were prized gemstones believed to hold the power of protection against poisoning and envy. ‘Zika’ is derived from the wishful Greek phrase ‘na zissis’ that means ‘to live’ or ‘may he live.’ For those looking for meaningful Z last names, Zika can be a good choice. When you have to choose a name for your baby, a few hundreds of names may not be just enough. Keep digging our mine of baby names until you find that one precious gem. 1. Do Greeks put their last name first?Greek names do not mention the last name first. The first names are followed by family names (11).2. Why do Greeks have long surnames?Greek names use many distinct suffixes for easy identification of an individual. The addition of these suffixes may increase the length of the surname based on the length of the root word.3. Why do some Greeks have Turkish last names?The presence of Turkish last names among some Greeks can be attributed to historical and cultural ties that have shaped the region over the centuries. Greece and Turkey share a complex history of interactions, including periods of coexistence, conflict, and population exchanges.4. Do Greek last names end in s?Generally, Greek family names followed a pattern where the masculine versions ended with “-s,” while the feminine versions and diminutives concluded with “-u.”5. Are there any regional variations in Greek surnames?There may be regional variations in Greek surnames. Greece has a long history and a diverse population, so different regions may have unique naming conventions and surnames specific to their area. These variations can be influenced by migratory patterns, ethnic groups, and cultural and linguistic factors.6. How do Greek surnames compare to surnames in other European countries?Unlike European countries, Greek surnames often have roots in mythology and a complex word structure. Additionally, Greek surnames often carry cultural and regional significance and reflect their clan history, unlike other European surnames.All Greek surnames or last names have a distinct origin and meaning related to Greek history. Unlike many other nations, Greek naming customs allow for converting surnames to a feminine version of the original masculine surname and always include different suffixes. Studying Greece and Greek mythology has long been a topic of curiosity, and learning about these Greek surnames can help you have a deeper grasp of their people and culture.Illustration: Most Common Greek Last Names Or Surnames With MeaningsImage: Stable Diffusion/MomJunction Design TeamCommunity ExperiencesJoin the conversation and become a part of our nurturing community! Share your stories, experiences, and insights to connect with fellow parents.

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