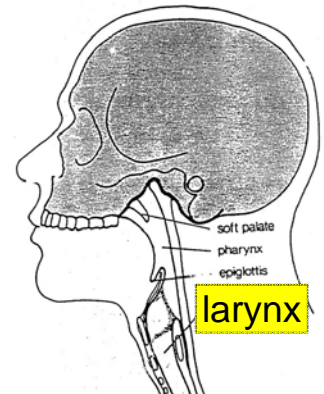
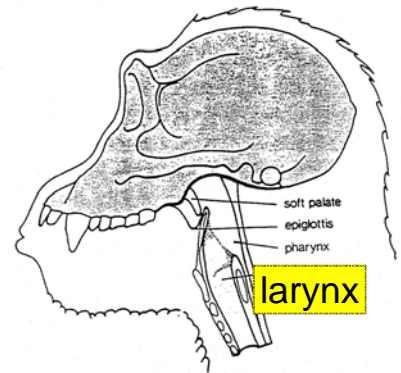


Latin and Greek Elements in English

A Brief History of the English Language

- The Beginnings of Human Speech
 - How far back does speech go in human **prehistory**?
 - **Homo erectus (1.6 – 0.3 mya)** has a **larynx**
 - the key to speech articulation
 - **Neanderthals** also have a larynx
 - n.b. in humans, this airway is connected to the esophagus, which can lead to choking
 - does that mean that could Homo Erectus and Neanderthal Man could speak?
 - Yes! Why else have a larynx and risk choking?
 - but probably very simple language



Latin and Greek Elements in English

A Brief History of the English Language

- The Beginnings of Human Speech
 - **ca. 30,000 BCE (Neolithic Period):** the triumph and domination of **Homo Sapiens**
 - specialized tools
 - extinction of Neanderthals
 - **cave paintings, e.g. at Altamira**



Latin and Greek Elements in English

A Brief History of the English Language

- The Beginnings of Human Speech
 - during the Neolithic Age, language was necessary for social hunting, transmission of weapons technology, etc.
 - do any languages from this period survive?
 - ALL languages are Neolithic in origin but none has survived unchanged because all languages are constantly evolving
 - they must evolve to meet changing circumstances
 - a unique example of the lone survivor of a “native European language family” is **Basque**
 - **in S France, NW Spain; around the Bay of Biscay**
 - i.e. not Indo-European or tied to any other known language



Latin and Greek Elements in English

A Brief History of the English Language

- The Beginnings of Human Speech
 - one **theory** is that all known languages come from a single original source
 - including Chinese, Native American, Polynesian, etc.
 - or did the major language families arise independently?
 - they are very different
 - but they also share extraordinary characteristics

Latin and Greek Elements in English

A Brief History of the English Language

- The Beginnings of Human Speech
 - **Basque** appears to have connections to **Na-Dene** (Native American language)
 - also, **Finnish** has affinities with **Eskimo/Aleut**
 - the word for “**dog**” is cognate in **Indo-European, Uralic** and certain **Amerind** languages
 - “**tik**”: “one” or “finger” on every continent
 - Merrit Ruhlen (*Natural History*, March 1987): “The significant number of such global cognates leads some linguists to conclude that all the world’s languages ultimately belong to a single language family.”

Latin and Greek Elements in English

A Brief History of the English Language

- **The Indo-Europeans**

- discovered by **Sir William Jones**

- English judge living in India, in the late 1700's CE

- studied Indian languages and literature

- especially **The Vedas**, very old Indian poems

- Jones noted the similarities of **Latin, Greek and Sanskrit**, e.g.

- “three”: **Skr. *trayas*, Grk. *treis*, Lat. *tres***

- “snake”: **Skr. *sarpa*, Lat. *serpens***

Latin and Greek Elements in English

INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES

English	month	mother	new	night	nose	three
Welsh	mis	mam	newydd	nos	trwyn	tri
Gaelic	mí	máthair	nua	oíche	srón	trí
French	mois	mère	nouveau	nuit	nez	trois
Spanish	mes	madre	nuevo	noche	nariz	tres
Portuguese	mês	mãe	novο	noite	nariz	três
Italian	mese	madre	nuovo	notte	naso	tre
Latin	mensis	mater	novus	nox	nasus	tres
German	Monat	Mutter	neu	Nacht	Nase	drei
Dutch	maand	moeder	nieuw	nacht	neus	drie
Icelandic	mánuður	móðir	nýr	nótt	nef	þrír
Swedish	månad	moder	ny	natt	näsa	tre
Polish	miesiąc	matka	nowy	noc	nos	trzy
Czech	měsíc	matka	nový	noc	nos	tři
Rumanian	lună	mamă	nou	noapte	nas	trei
Albanian	muaj	nënë	i ri	natë	hundë	tre, tri
Greek	men	meter	neos	nux	rhis	treis
Russian	mesyats	mat'	novy	noch'	nos	tri
Lithuanian	mėnuo	motina	naujas	naktis	nosis	trys
Armenian	amis	mayr	nor	kisher	kit	yerek
Persian	māh	mādar	nau	shab	bini	se
Sanskrit	mās	matar	nava	nakt	nās	trayas

Latin and Greek Elements in English

A Brief History of the English Language

- **The Indo-Europeans**

- Jones presented a paper at the meeting of the **Asiatick Society of Calcutta in 1786:**

- “... no philologer could examine all three languages [Sanskrit, Latin, Greek] without believing them to have sprung from some common source which, perhaps, no longer exists.”

- Jones’ conclusion has been affirmed by two centuries of linguistic study since his day

- the “common source” is now called **Indo-European**

- linguists have been able to deduce much of the vocabulary and grammar of Indo-European

Latin and Greek Elements in English

A Brief History of the English Language

- Indo-European Languages

Family	Subgroup	Branch	Major Languages	Minor Languages
Indo-European	Germanic	Western	English, German, Yiddish, Dutch, Flemish, Afrikaans	Frisian, Luxembourgian
		Northern (Scandinavian)	Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, Icelandic	Faroese
	Italic		Latin	
	Romance		Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Rumanian	Catalan, Provençal, Rhaeto-Romanic, Sardinian, Moldavian
	Celtic	Brythonic	Welsh, Breton	
		Goidelic	Irish (Gaelic), Scottish (Gaelic)	
	Hellenic		Greek	
			Albanian	
	Slavic	Eastern	Russian, Ukrainian, Belorussian	
		Western	Polish, Czech, Slovak	Sorbian (Lusatian)
		Southern	Bulgarian, Serbo-Croatian, Slovenian, Macedonian	
	Baltic		Lithuanian, Latvian (Lettish)	
			Armenian	
Indo-Iranian	Iranian	Persian, Pashto, Kurdish, Baluchi, Tadjik, Ossetian	Gilaki, Mazanderani	
	Indic	Sanskrit, Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Punjabi, Marathi, Gujarati, Bihari, Rajasthani, Oriya, Assamese, Kashmiri, Nepali, Sindhi, Sinhalese	Bhili, Romany, Maldivian	

Latin and Greek Elements in English

A Brief History of the English Language

- **Indo-European Languages**
 - Indo-Europeans **begin spreading across Eurasia, ca. 3500 BCE** (at the earliest)
 - why migrate? unclear!
 - no historical or archaeological records as such, only linguistic evidence
 - take over most of Europe (**Celts, Gauls, Germans, Italians, Greeks, etc.**)
 - also northern **India** and some of East Asia

Latin and Greek Elements in English

A Brief History of the English Language

- **Indo-European Languages**



The early historical distribution of the major Indo-European linguistic groups.

Latin and Greek Elements in English

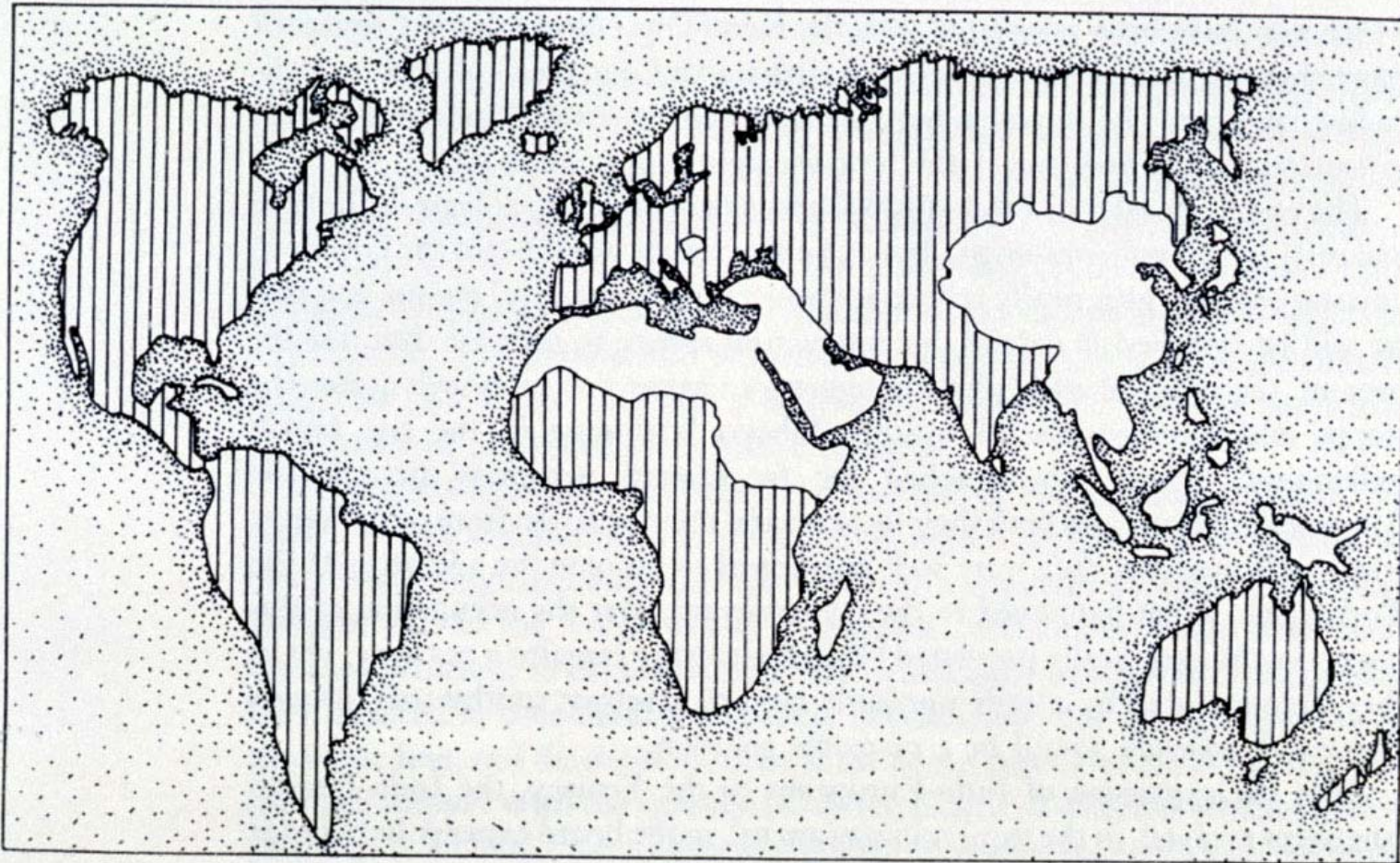
A Brief History of the English Language

- **Indo-European Languages**
 - Indo-European languages displace native languages
 - over the half the world today speaks a language derived from one common Indo-European source

Latin and Greek Elements in English

A Brief History of the English Language

- **Indo-European Languages**



Latin and Greek Elements in English

A Brief History of the English Language

- **Indo-European Languages**
 - Indo-European languages displace native languages
 - over the half the world today speaks a language derived from one common Indo-European source
 - for us, there are **three important branches**:
 - **Germanic (English)**
 - **Italic (Latin)**
 - **Hellenic (Greek)**

Latin and Greek Elements in English

A Brief History of the English Language

- **The Formation of Early English (before 1000 CE)**
 - English is founded on a **foundation of Germanic** grammar and vocabulary
 - i.e. Indo-European as spoken in NW Europe
 - the first Indo-Europeans to inhabit England are the Celts who speak **Celtic** (a branch of Indo-European)

Latin and Greek Elements in English

A Brief History of the English Language

- **The Formation of Early English (before 1000 CE)**
 - the **Roman conquest of Britain under Caesar** first (50's BCE), and later **Claudius** (40 CE), introduces Roman influence
 - but only a weak infusion of classical culture
 - the Romans maintain Britain as mainly a strategic, military outpost, not a major settlement
 - cf. Roman British names: **Manchester, Lancaster**
 - from Lat. *castra* (“army camp”)

Latin and Greek Elements in English

A Brief History of the English Language

- **The Formation of Early English (before 1000 CE)**
 - when the Romans retreat after **400 CE**, the **Angles and Saxons** invade England from northern Germany
 - thus, Anglo-Saxon language (N Germ IE) displaces Celtic as the principal tongue spoken in Britain
 - Anglo-Saxon already has some Latin/Greek vocabulary, e.g.
 - **street** (*strata*, “paved”)
 - **wine** (*vinum*, “wine”)
 - **mile** (*mille passuum*, “a thousand paces”)
 - **inch** (*uncia*, “twelfth part”)

Latin and Greek Elements in English

A Brief History of the English Language

- **The Formation of Early English (before 1000 CE)**
 - when the Romans retreat after 400 CE, the **Angles and Saxons** invade England from northern Germany
 - thus, Anglo-Saxon language (N Germ IE) replaces Celtic
 - Anglo-Saxon already has some Latin/Greek vocabulary, e.g.
 - **table** (*tabula*, “board”)
 - **chest** (*cista*, “box”)
 - **pillow** (*pulvinus*, “cushion”)

Latin and Greek Elements in English

A Brief History of the English Language

OLD ENGLISH

Beowulf mapeode, bearn Ecgþeowes:
“Ne sorga, snotor guma; selre bið æghwæm
þæt he his freond wrece, þonne he fela murne.
Ure æghwylc sceal ende gebidan
worolde lifes; wyrce se þe mote
domes ær deaþe; þæt bið drihtguman
unlifgendum æfter selest.
Aris, rices weard, uton raþe feran
Grendles magan gang sceawigan.
Ic hit þe gehate, no he on helm losað,
ne on foldan fæþm, ne on fyrgeholt,
ne on gyfenes grund, ga þær he wille.
Ðys dōgor þu geþyld hafa
weana gehwylces, swa ic þe wene to.”

Beowulf spoke, the son of Ecgtheow: “Sorrow not, wise warrior. It is better for a man to avenge his friend than much mourn. Each of us must await his end of the world’s life. Let him who may get glory before death: that is best for the warrior after he has gone from life. Arise, guardian of the kingdom, let us go at once to look on the track of Grendel’s kin. I promise you this: she will not be lost under cover, not in the earth’s bosom nor in the mountain woods nor at the bottom of the sea, go where she will. This day have patience in every woe—as I expect you to.”

—Beowulf

Latin and Greek Elements in English

A Brief History of the English Language

- **The Norman Conquest (1066 CE)**

- England is invaded by **William the Conqueror**

- from NW France (Normandy)
- born of Viking stock
- the French king cedes land to his family in the tenth century CE

- the **Normans** speak a form of Old French

- what Latin has turned into
- not their native Scandinavian tongue



Latin and Greek Elements in English

A Brief History of the English Language

- **The Norman Conquest (1066 CE)**
 - government and law are conducted in **Anglo-Norman**
 - Anglo-Norman is the language spoken by the Normans
 - many AN terms introduced to English
 - e.g. jury, justice, felony, marriage, prison, parliament
 - no English king even speaks English until Henry IV (1399-1413 CE)
 - thus, this is a period during which a great amount of classical vocabulary is infused into English

Latin and Greek Elements in English

A Brief History of the English Language

- **The Norman Conquest (1066 CE)**

- n.b. differences between Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Norman terminology:

- AS simple trades: miller, baker, shoemaker
- AN skilled trades: mason, painter, tailor
- AS animal names: sheep, cow, ox
- AN meat names: mutton, beef, veal

- but little AN grammar permeates AS, e.g. no verb endings and only a few examples of word order

- court martial, attorney general, notary public, heir apparent, battle royal, proof positive

Latin and Greek Elements in English

A Brief History of the English Language

- **The Norman Conquest (1066 CE)**
 - under Norman kings, English is greatly simplified
 - it is the language of peasants who care little for linguistic subtleties
 - thus, changes in grammar are uncontrolled
 - e.g. all but complete loss of noun and verb endings
 - nouns: only possessives and plurals (-s)
 - verbs: past tense (-ed), 3rd singular present verbs (-s)

Latin and Greek Elements in English

A Brief History of the English Language

- **The Norman Conquest (1066 CE)**
 - vast reduction in native Anglo-Saxon vocabulary
 - ca. 85% of AS vocabulary is lost/replaced by AN terms
 - only about 4500 AS words left in English (ca. 1% of English)
 - but these are most common words
 - e.g. man, woman, child, brother, sister, house, sleep, eat, drink, love, fight, to, at, in, on, with
 - thus, about 80% of words on any page is Anglo-Saxon
 - but the “big” words tend to be Latinate
 - the new blend of AN and AS is “**Middle English**”

Latin and Greek Elements in English

MIDDLE ENGLISH

Bifel that, in that seson on a day,
In Southwerk, at the Tabard as I lay
Redy to wenden on my pilgimage
To Caunterbury with ful devout corage,
At night was come in-to that hostelrye
Wel nyne and twenty in a companye,
Of sondry folk, by aventure y-falle
In felawshipe, and pilgrims were they alle,
That toward Caunterbury wolden ryde;
The chambres and the stables weren wyde,
And wel we weren esed atte beste.
And shortly, whan the sonne was to reste,
So hadde I spoken with hem everichon,
That I was of hir felawshipe anon,
And made forward erly for to ryse,
To take our wey, ther as I yow devyse.

It happened that, in that season on a day,
In Southwark, at the Tabard as I lay
Ready to wend on my pilgimage
To Canterbury with a fully devout heart,
At night there came into that inn
Full nine and twenty in a company,
Of sundry folk, by chance fallen
Into fellowship, and pilgrims were they all,
That toward Canterbury would ride;
The chambers and the stables were large,
And well we were treated with the best.
And briefly, when the sun had gone to rest,
So had I spoken with them every one,
That I was of their fellowship forthwith,
And made an agreement to rise early,
To take our way, as I shall tell you.

—CHAUCER, *The Canterbury Tales*

Latin and Greek Elements in English

A Brief History of the English Language

- **The Period of Exploration and Colonization (beginning ca. 1500 CE)**
 - the British begin to impose English upon the world
 - and at the same time English is exposed to other languages
 - by the 20th century, English becomes an **international language**
 - especially, used in **science and technology**
 - e.g., of 168 national airlines, 157 use English as their principal mode of communication

Latin and Greek Elements in English

THREE IMPORTANT TERMS

- **English Contact with Latin and Greek**
 - two paths of contact:
 - common Indo-European heritage
 - **COGNATES**: “two or more words in different languages which have the same root”
 - e.g. mother/madre/mère/moeder
 - **DERIVATIVE**: “a word borrowed from another word or root, usually from another language”
 - e.g. Lat. *rivus* (“river bank”) > rival
 - sometimes one base can produce both cognates and derivatives
 - Lat. *pater* is cognate with Eng. *father*
 - *pater* also produces English derivatives: paternal, paternity

Latin and Greek Elements in English

THREE IMPORTANT TERMS

- English Contact with Latin and Greek
 - also a single foreign word can produce more than one derivative, often at different times with different senses
 - these closely related derivatives are called **DOUBLETS**
 - “two words of the same language which are derived from the same original word,” e.g.
 - Lat. *fragilis* (“breakable”): fragile/frail
 - Lat. *amator* (“lover”): amatory/amateur
 - Grk. *gramma* (“sign”): grammar/glamour