

GOOGLE IT

"Google it" has become a familiar phrase in the 21st century. This term is derived from the well-known company Google, a noteworthy search engine company that has given the world all of the information we would ever need at our fingertips.

Google was born in a Stanford University dorm room in 1995 with the brainpower of two men, Larry Page, and Sergey Brin. However, Google wasn't always going to be called Google. Page and Brin designed a search engine that used links to evaluate how important web pages were on the World Wide Web. This search engine was initially called Backrub, referring to the backlinks needed to find more pertinent web pages in the search engine.

Eventually, Backrub was taking up too much bandwidth on Stanford's servers and needed an upgrade. It was at this time that Larry Page decided he didn't like the name Backrub. So Page, Brin, and a few other Stanford graduate students brainstormed new names. They were inclined to come up with a term that encompassed all of the data that would be organized through this search engine. The term googol was debated. A googol is the number 1 followed by 100 zeros. Sean Anderson, one of the graduate students working with Page and Brin, immediately rushed to the computer to see if www.googol.com was available. In his haste, he accidentally searched for "google.com" instead of "googol.com." Page liked this spelling much better and secured the domain name on September 15, 1997.

Google was quickly gaining strength and popularity within Silicon Valley. In August of 1998, Andy Bechtolsheim, the founder of Sun Microsystems, wrote a check to Page and Brin for \$100,000. With Bechtolsheim's investment, Google Inc. had officially been launched. The team moved into their first office, which was a garage that belonged to Susan Wojcicki. Susan was the sixteenth Google employee. In the years to come, the company grew exponentially. They hired engineers and constructed a sales team, which eventually forced them out of the garage and into their current multi-building headquarters, which is now known as the GooglePlex.



1.If the first paragraph, the author uses *noteworthy* to describe Google. Based on her word choice, what can you infer is her opinion of the company?

- a. She thinks it is a mediocre search engine.
- b. She thinks it is worthy of attention and praise.
- c. She thinks the company is overrated.
- d. She thinks more people should use Google.

2.What does the word *encompassed* mean as it is used in the text?

- a. organized
- b. filed
- c. named
- d. included

3.What is the meaning of the word *investment* as it is used in the text?

- a. putting money into something
- b. putting time and effort into something
- c. buying something
- d. selling something

4.What does the word *exponentially* mean as it is used in the text?

- a. slowly
- b. quickly
- c. double its size
- d. half its size

5.Which detail BEST supports your answer to #2?

- a. "...was the sixteenth Google employee"
- b. "In the years to come..."
- c. "forced them out of the garage and into their current multi-building headquarters"
- d. "...now known as the GooglePlex"

KEY**GOOGLE IT**

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