

The Song of the Earth

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Moderately (♩ = 144)



Ter - ra nul - lius: no man's coun - try. Ter - ra fir - ma: place to stand.



Ter - ra - cot - ta: red ce - ra - mic. Ter - ra No - va: New - found - land.



Ter - ri - to - ry: terre du roi, the range of lands ruled by a king.



Ter - ra - cord: a land sur - vey - ors' ny - lon bor - der mar - king string.



Ter - ra - tro - pic: said of plants -- they know which way to send their roots.



Ter - ra - sou - ven - ir: the mud you can't get off your hi - king boots.



Te - rra Al - ta: re - gion known for gro - wing grapes in north - east Spain.



Ter - ra - post: the class of mail that's for - war - ded by truck or train.

Complete words are on the other side

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This songsheet was created in May 2021 and renamed in August 2024
Prior to October 2024, this song was titled "How the Terrier Got His Bark"

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Terra nullius: no man's country. Terra firma: place to stand. [both true]
Terracotta: red ceramic. Terra Nova: Newfoundland. [both true]
Territory: *terre du roi*, the range of land ruled by a king. [false]
Terracord: a land surveyors' nylon border marking string. [false]
Terratropic: said of plants – they know which way to send their roots. [false]
Terrasouvenir: the mud you can't get off your hiking boots. [false]
Terra Alta: region known for growing grapes in northeast Spain. [true]
Terrapost: the class of mail that's forwarded by truck or train. [false]
(U.K. alternative: *Terrapost*: the class of mail that's moved by lorry or by train.)

Terra Madre: Mother Earth, the gathering of slow food fans. [true]
Terra flora: architects' depictions of their landscape plans. [false]
Terra Locus: European GPS alternative. [false]
Terrasphere: the range of places nematodes and earthworms live. [false]
Terraforming: science fiction, making Earth-like parts of Mars. [true]
Terraporters: vehicles that move on land, like bikes or cars. [false]
Terramycin: for infections, from bacteria found in soil. [true]
Terra Oleum: museum of the world of olive oil. [true]

By the moneyed upper classes, gentry to the manor born,
Foxes would be chased for hours, using horse and hound and horn.
Badgers, toothy but not speedy, weren't considered proper game.
Therefore, common folk were not forbidden to harass the same.
So, a dog was bred for fierceness, unafraid of fox or rat,
Or, when large enough, of badger. Badgers in their habitat
Typically eat slugs and earthworms, voles and hedgehogs, also fruit,
Fleeing underground for safety. Brave dogs follow in pursuit.

Any dog who's brave enough to chase a badger down a hole
Needs a name to fit his reputation, to describe his role.
So, we call him "terrier", a term that has a Latin base,
For, like "terrace" or "terrain", it names the ground where he gives chase.
Terriers were so persistent following their badger prey
That they sometimes failed to emerge back to the light of day.
Terriers of quiet breeding, getting stuck down in the dark,
Tended to leave few descendants who were disinclined to bark.

Terriers who barked while in pursuit of badgers underground
Could be rescued by their owners, digging down to reach the sound.
Bred to bark for their own safety, silence being dangerous,
They can't meet our quiet expectations when they live with us.

Terra alba: fine-ground gypsum, used to curdle milk from soy. [true]
Terre Haute: an Indiana city close to Illinois. [true]
Terrarana: frogs that have no tadpole stage, though most frogs do. [true]
Terrier: the barking earth dog. Some of what I've said is true.

I learned about terriers and barking from a broadcast interview with Stanley Coren, whose book *Born to Bark* is an excellent introduction to terriers, their history, and their intelligence.