nape

Pattern power

Number of words with these patterns

n	310,458	a	367,428	p	134,734	e	477,145
na	21,988	nap	810	nape	46	ape	1482
ap	12,313	pe	20,919	a_e	42,050		

Where does the word nape come from? [Oxford English Dictionary]

The earliest known use of the noun nape is in the Middle English period (1150—1500).

OED's earliest evidence for nape is from before 1325, in Glossary of Walter de Bibbesworth.

Use in literature:

William Shakespeare, **Troilus and Cressida** (Act 2, Scene 3, c. 1602): Ulysses urges the brutish Ajax to self-examine: "Turn your eyes towards the napes of your necks, And make but an interior survey / Of your good selves," using the nape as a metaphor for introspection amid the play's cynical war satire. The rare plural "napes" (as in "napes of your necks") underscores Elizabethan anatomical precision, useful for analyzing Shakespeare's rhetorical shifts from martial bluster to philosophical humility.

Astrid Lindgren, **Pippi Longstocking** (1945): Pippi's braids are noted as hanging from the "nape of her neck, which remains hanging straight down," emphasizing her wild, unapologetic spirit in this rollicking tale of independence, inspiring children to embrace their uniqueness with joy.

Poem:

Tickle Tumble
Wiggle your toes, spin around,
Now touch your nape, soft and round!
A feather-light tickle makes you squeal,
Giggle and dance—how does it feel?