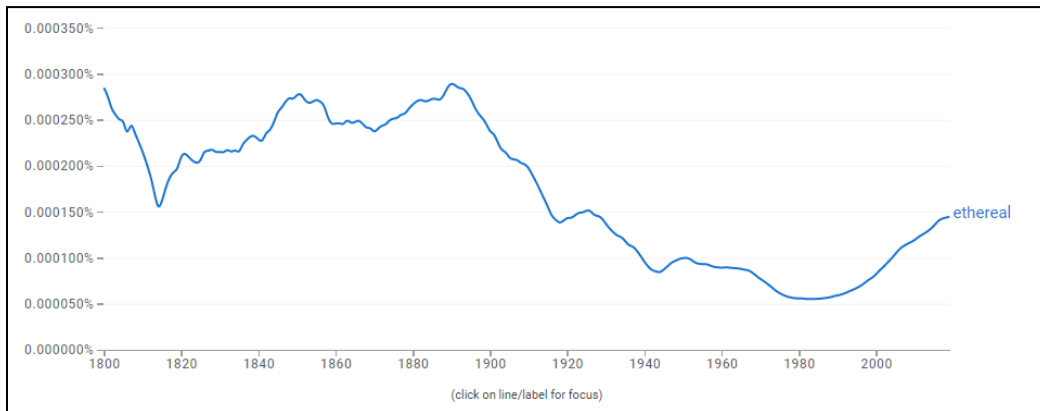
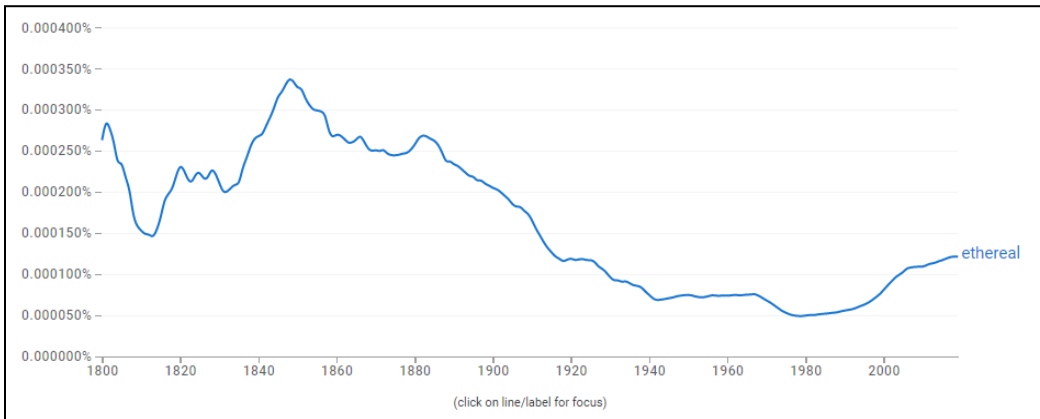


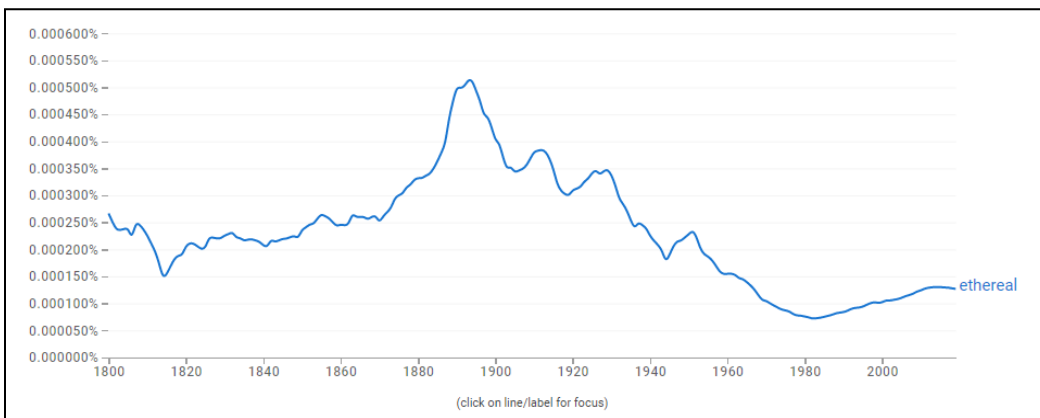
Tracing “Ethereal” Throughout History



“Ethereal”
All English



“Ethereal”
American
English



“Ethereal”
British
English

The word “eathereal” has 3 definitions, all of which are pretty similar. The first is from the ancient Greeks, meaning “of or relating to the regions beyond the earth.” (Merriam Webster Dictionary) The ancient greeks believed that the earth is made of 4 elements: earth, fire, water, and air; and heaven is made out of a fifth element that is lighter than air and purer than water and exists above the earth and between the stars, called aether. This definition is synonymous with “celestial” and “heavenly.”

The second definition is a more English adaptation of the first definition: "Consisting of ether; hence, exceedingly light or airy; tenuous; spiritlike; characterized by extreme delicacy, as form, manner, thought, etc." (websters1913.com) This definition is most commonly used to describe specific things, and is synonymous with "airy" and "spiritual." This definition was very popular in the 1700s and early 1800s, with a spike around 1848 in American English and another that followed around 1893 in British English.

The third definition is the least widely used, as it's specific to chemistry: "relating to, containing, or resembling a chemical ether."(Merriam Webster Dictionary) Ether is a compound that is similar to alcohol, but not quite the same thing.