

(wild) goose chase

Definition

A hopeless quest.

Origin

This phrase is old and appears to be one of the many phrases introduced to the language by Shakespeare. The first recorded citation is from Romeo and Juliet, 1592

Romeo: Switch and spurs, switch and spurs; or I'll cry a match.

Mercutio: Nay, if thy wits run the wild-goose chase, I have done, for thou hast more of the wild-goose in one of thy wits than, I am sure, I have in my whole five.

I've been on a wild goose chase trying to find a bag of Dan's favourite potato chips.

Those jerks sent me on a wild goose chase to find a copy of a book that hasn't been released yet!

1. Think of your own examples.



2. Have you heard any other idioms in the episode?