N-Grams

Use *OED*'s advanced search functionality to find a comparatively **unambiguous word that is first attested sometime in the thirteenth century** (i.e. in the 1200s) and is still in relatively common use today (but not a word discussed in the in-class introduction of the Google Books Ngram Viewer). Find at least **one similarly common and comparatively unambiguous synonym**, either from the *OED* definitions or using a thesaurus (from the library or using an online [meta]resource such as wordnik.com), and briefly note the origin (etymology and date of first attestation) of both words. Now **use the Google Books Ngram Viewer** (books.google.com/ngrams) **to compare how the popularity of these alternatives has fluctuated over time**. Summarize your findings and present a hypothesis to explain the developments you have found. **Your answer should include an accurate explanation of the quantitative measure used by Google, as well as a reflection on the limitations and dangers of using this type of search function to study your chosen word pair or the history of language usage in general.**