

# Family History for Kids & Teens

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There are so many fun projects involving family history, and some of the most popular are listed below. As you collect your family's history, be sure to store everything someplace that is not too hot, dusty, or damp, and away from bright light.

## Projects

- Make a family tree. Special Collections has free ancestor charts to get you started.
- Make a family cookbook. Collect favorite recipes from family members and put them in a notebook. Be sure to include a little information about each cook.
- Write a biography of yourself. Include things like:
  - A description of where you live
  - Funny stories
  - How you celebrate holidays
  - Your favorite books or magazines, music, television programs, movies, and games
  - Your best friend
  - Vacations
  - School
- Keep a journal to record both the daily activities and significant events of your life.
- Collect or borrow family photographs. Make copies and create a family album. Be sure to label each photograph with names and dates.
- Start a family archive. Collect items that are important to you or your family including:
  - Birthday cards
  - Birth certificates
  - Ticket stubs
  - Programs from events that you attended
  - Report cards
  - Letters
  - Recipes
  - Certificates of achievement and diplomas
- Interview family members (oral history) and make a videotape and/or audiotape. Listed below are some sample questions.
  - What is your full name? When were you born? Where? What are your parents' names? When were they born? Where? Are they still living?
  - Were you named after someone?
  - Where did you grow up? Do you know why your family came to (name of town)?
  - Where did your parent(s) work?
  - Can you describe the house or apartment in which you lived?
  - What was your neighborhood like? What kind of people lived there? Were they members of a certain ethnic group or did they work for the same company?
  - Do you have brothers or sisters? When were they born, and what are their names?
  - What kinds of things did you do as a family?

- Did you have assigned chores?
- Where did you go to school? What was a typical school day like? How did you get to school?
- Did you participate in any sports?
- What were your favorite subjects in school?
- What did you like most about school?
- What did you like least about school?
- Did you like to read? What kinds of things did you read?
- What did you do for fun when you were a child? What games did you play?
- Did you have a secret place where you went to be alone?
- Who was your best friend?
- Did you and your friends have any favorite “hangouts”?
- Did you have pets?
- How did you celebrate your birthday? Can you remember a favorite gift?
- How did you celebrate Halloween? What costumes did you wear?
- How did you celebrate Christmas (or Hanukah)? Did your family have any special traditions or foods?
- How did you celebrate the Fourth of July?
- Did your family take vacations?
- Did you go to college? Where?
- Did you serve in the military? Where? What did you do?
- How did you meet your spouse? What was your wedding like? Honeymoon?
- Can you tell me about your first car?
- Where do you work? What other jobs have you had?
- How do you like to spend your free time?

## Getting Started

- *Roots for Kids: A Genealogy Guide for Young People* **929.1 B442r**
- *The Kids Family Tree Book* **929.1 L439k – Children’s Library**
- *Who Do You Think You Are?: Be a Family Tree Detective* **929.1 W116w – Children’s Library**
- *Basic Genealogy for Kids* **929.1 H663b – Children’s Library**
- *Filling the Family Tree* **929.1 O149f – Children’s Library**
- *Finding Out About Your Family History* **929.2 H946f – Children’s Library**
- *How to Research Your Ancestry* **929.1072 Or75h – Children’s Library**
- *Climbing Your Family Tree: Online and Offline Genealogy for Kids: The Official Ellis Island Handbook* **929.1 W859c – Children’s Library**

## Electronic Resources

- There are links to thousands of family history web sites from [www.cyndislist.com/kids](http://www.cyndislist.com/kids).
- Find ideas for activities and crafts for kids at <http://kids.familytreemagazine.com/kids>.
- The web site maintained by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is searchable by name at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org).
- The **Ancestry Library Edition** and **Heritage Quest** databases include records, census images and more. These [databases](#) are available at any Akron-Summit County Public Library location. Heritage Quest may also be used outside the library with a library card.