



At-Home Lesson Plan

Please note: This lesson plan was adapted from a museum-based program. It is recommended that families work together on this lesson. Once the museum is open to the public again, come for a tour and see the actual artifacts in person!

Family Stories

Context: Genealogy and family histories are a major component to the work done at the Vineland Historical Society. Learning about your family's history helps us understand where we come from, our special traditions, and stories of our ancestors.

Grade Level: 4-8th Grade

Standards: (New Jersey Social Studies Standards) 6.4.2.A.2 Describe their family history through two generations, **6.4.2.A.4** Tell about their family heritage using stories, songs, and drawings, **6.2.8.E.6** Describe how one's heritage includes personal history and experiences, culture, customs, and family background. **(New Jersey English Language Arts Standards) RI.4.3** Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text, **RI.4.4** Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a grade 4 topic or subject area, **RI.6.2** Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

Glossary:

- 1) Genealogy: the study and tracing of lines of descent or development.
- 2) Ancestor: one from whom a person is descended and who is usually more remote in the line of descent than a grandparent



Lesson Guide:

- 1) In this lesson, students can create a family scrapbook, storybook, poster, or family tree. Students should start with the story of themselves. Where are they from? Who are their immediate family whom they live with? (see more examples below)
- 2) Students can get as in depth as they would like. Did their family line once live in another country? When did they arrive in America and how? Do other family members live somewhere else?
- 3) Students can gain information by speaking with other family members about the topics below. The more family members participating in this activity, the better!
- 4) Starting with themselves and for each family member, students can explore even deeper. Things they can add to their stories can include:
 - a. Milestones
 1. Weddings
 2. Births
 3. Deaths
 4. Pets
 5. Where they have lived
 6. Citizenship
 7. Education and occupations
 8. Military service
 9. Family celebrations
 - b. Schools they attended
 - c. Friends they have
 - d. Activities they enjoy or have participated in
 - e. Hobbies
 - f. Things they collect
 - g. Family health
 - h. Treasures
 - i. Mementos



Resources for further exploration (Please note: some resources listed are free, while others may require payment)

The Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society holds records on various families and other information on Vineland History. If you have a question about your family or think we may have a useful resource, you can download a research request form from the Society's web site, which is located at www.discovervinelandhistory.org. Once completed, that form can be e-mailed to VHASgen@gmail.com. The museum does require a fee for this service.

Other resources include:

- Local library (records, books, and access to genealogy websites)
- Ancestry.com
- Familysearch.com
- Find a Grave
- Ellis Island Records/Passenger Search
<https://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/passenger>
- Census.gov for more information about the history of a city/state over time