

## **Educational Resources on Genealogy and Family History for Teachers K-12**

### **Introduction**

As educators we often wonder where to start when introducing students to their family history and genealogy. It is a wonderful way to integrate learning about the past in a meaningful context. Following are suggestions that may be of help with support, direction, and resources for your curriculum. The information is comprehensive so you can find those things that fit your objectives and can be helpful in planning a family history journey for your students no matter their level [whether they are in kindergarten or high school]. There are suggested ideas, web sites, resources, and suggested books for your review. Feel free to contact us should you desire additional support. We welcome your feedback as to how you were able to use the information and would appreciate suggestions for additional resources you may have found. Happy hunting into the past!

### **Why Genealogy?**

- a. Curiosity about family history and past generations [Were ancestors royals, farmers, inventors, thieves?];
- b. Answers to family history questions [Where did ancestors come from? What was the origin of their name? What traits and family characteristics, talents, and traits did I inherit? Were they interesting people? What was their life like?];
- c. Learn about social, religious, and cultural identity;
- d. Learn how history and historical events influenced ancestors;
- e. Appreciation for family struggles, successes, and failures;
- f. Background research and planning for future travel to visit the homeland of an ancestor;

- g. Searching for health answers [genetic traits, medical history and patterns, causes of death];
- h. Application of educational, research [library and Internet] organization, and presentation skills;
- i. Adoptees search for information about biological family members;
- j. Research for legal, financial, or inheritance reasons; and
- k. Benefits as determined by studies conducted by Marshall P Duke Ph.D. indicated students engaged in genealogy and family history research develop increased feelings of self-esteem and responsibility giving them strength in their own ability to be like their parents, grandparents, and ancestors.

Allison Dolan of *Family Tree Magazine* examined how genealogical research blends history, language arts, science and technology in a high interest creative manner achieving many state core educational competencies.

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## Genealogy TERMS

**Genealogy:** Search for family history, study of individuals, and/or a description of the descendants and family relationships of a specific ancestor. Genealogy incorporates history, biography, geography, culture, religion, medicine, and linguistics.

**Family History:** Starts with you and works backs resulting in a family line.

**Family Genealogy:** Starts with the first ancestor to the US and traces each subsequent generation of descendants to the present generation.

**Pedigree:** Recorded ancestry of a person or family.

**Generation:** All of the people born or living about the same time

**Maternal:** Members related to the mother's side of the family.

**Paternal:** Members related to the father's side of the family.

**Surname:** A distinct, inherited [last] name common to members of a family.

**Maiden Name:** A woman's unmarried name, name before she married.

### Genealogy Terms Websites

- a. Genealogy Quest Terms <http://genealogy-quest.com/glossary-terms/>
- b. PBS Genealogy Glossary  
<http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/technique/genealogy-glossary/>
- c. Rootsweb Genealogy Terms  
<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sam/terms.html>
- d. Family Search Genealogy Terms  
[https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Genealogical\\_Terms](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Genealogical_Terms)
- e. Family Tree Genealogy Terms <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/glossary>

- f. Kinship Terminology <https://blog.findmypast.co.uk/kinship-terminology-how-we-refer-to-our-family-relationships-1406061947.html>

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## Teacher/Student Genealogy RESOURCES

### 1. Home Artifacts and Resources

- a. Family Bibles and funeral cards;
- b. Photos [with inscriptions], family movies, slides;
- c. Family documents [deeds, marriage, birth, death, naturalization papers, military records, report cards, graduation diplomas, invitations, and announcements, licenses];
- d. Scrapbooks [newspaper articles, greeting cards, souvenirs, invitations, post cards];
- e. Handmade artifacts [crafts, quilts, decoys, family clocks, etc.] and family collections, toys, or furniture [trunks, boxes, chairs, desks, trinkets, dolls, etc.];
- f. Historical maps of the homestead, plats/land patents;
- g. Oral traditions, cultural traditions, family traditions, reunions, oral histories, and interviews, tape recordings; and
- h. Journals, books, letters, record collections.

### 2. Research Civil/Public Records

- a. Genealogical libraries and genealogical sections in libraries [research online and onsite];
- b. County and state archives [deeds, wills court cases, adoption, marriage, birth, death, law suits] and public records [research access to information via visitation, mail, online and any related fees and required forms];
- c. Church and cemetery records [marriage/birth/baptism/burial, meeting minutes, church] history/trustees/elders/founders/members];
- d. Naturalization application and registration records,
- e. Census [state and national];
- f. Town hall meeting minutes;
- g. Military records by war and military force, military cemeteries, grave markings, and monuments;
- h. Land patents;
- i. Patents of invention and publications;
- j. Migration and ships records;
- k. Newspaper and publication research: announcements [marriage license application, birth, death, obituaries]; deed transfers; incidents of crime [police blotter, arrests, trials, scandals]; ads [sales, want ads, real estate/home sales]; legal notices [estate/business]; cultural and social events [travel, visitations, parties, anniversaries, birthdays, illnesses, hospital admissions/discharges]; service organizations and charities; girl/boy scout events; county fair awards, sporting events/results; church members and events; national and local news; weather, historical, and community events;
- l. National Archive records and photos [available online]; and
- m. Historical maps [regional, state, county, city, community, development] and *Google Earth* research/map overlays.

### 3. General Family History Activities

- a. Develop a family tree with 4 generations [pick maternal or paternal side of the family or both];
- b. Research the meaning of first names and origin/definition of surnames; interesting things you learned about their name, variations in spelling, or changes in spelling;
- c. Identify and interview family members who immigrated, find out when they came, where they came from, how they came, as well as the migration path/route taken; Identify interesting things learned about your family;
- d. Research the countries and culture your family came from;
- e. Identify members who served in a war, develop a small flag or icon to represent the war they served in and the branch of military;
- f. Review of genealogical tools used and description of how they helped your research;
- g. Identify new genealogical resources found;
- h. Research, Draw or Create a Family Coat of Arms  
<https://www.nps.gov/timu/learn/education/classrooms/coat-of-arms.htm>;
- i. Using electronic publishing – publish your family history;
- j. Join or form a genealogy club.

**Note - Conduct a search for the following websites to locate specific Genealogical Resources**

- a. Foreign Country/Province family history, genealogical resources;
- b. State/County family history, genealogical resources and archives;
- c. State/County historical and genealogical societies resources and archives;
- d. University and college genealogical holdings and archives;
- e. National/state/local historical sites/parks/museums educational resources;
- f. State, County, community, local libraries and archives;
- g. Local genealogical clubs/organizations;
- h. County courthouses and land record offices;
- i. Genealogical resources by cultural origin [African American, Dutch, Irish, German, Swedish, Polish, etc.];
- j. History/Technology/ESL/Cultural Diversity/Tolerance educational resources and lesson plans often include family history/genealogy;
- k. School district, media/school libraries;
- l. LDS, religious organizations, church and cemetery records;
- m. Famous individuals in history;
- n. PBS, Discovery, History Channel Educational Resources and Lesson Plans;
- o. Key search terms: family history, genealogy for kids/students; or
- p. Search a family surname [with and without quotation marks] with location, dates.

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## Internet Family History and Genealogy Resources

**Please Note: The suggested Internet websites listed were created and hosted by others and is provided as a convenience. Internet sites should be verified as to their functionality and their content should be reviewed for accuracy and to determined if the site is educationally appropriate for a specific age or grade.**

### 4. Internet Family Search and Family History Forms

- a. Family Search <https://familysearch.org/>
- b. Wiki Tree – free genealogy tree development <https://www.wikitree.com/>
- c. Find My Past Search <http://www.findmypast.com/>
- d. Ancestry.com Search <https://www.ancestry.com/>
- e. Ancestry Classroom for Schools, libraries, and classrooms  
<http://www.ancestry.com/cs/us/institution>
- f. Ancestry Charts and Forms from Ancestry.com:  
<http://www.ancestry.com/cs/charts-and-forms>
- g. My Heritage free Tree <https://www.myheritage.com/>
- h. Family History Daily Free Search engine  
<http://familyhistorydaily.com/free-genealogy-search-engine/>
- i. Roots Web Ancestry Charts and Forms  
[http://helpdesk.rootsweb.com/get\\_started/charts\\_forms.html](http://helpdesk.rootsweb.com/get_started/charts_forms.html)  
<http://www.teachnet.com/graphics/how-to/familytree.gif>
- j. Treelines: [Treelines.com](http://Treelines.com)
- k. American Ancestors by the New England Historical Genealogical Society – Search  
<https://www.americanancestors.org/index.aspx>
- l. Climb Your Family Tree <http://climbyourfamilytree.com/>
- m. Family Tree Magazine charts and forms  
<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/freeforms>
- n. Ancestry Names

## 5. Internet Educational Support: How to Get Started in Genealogy/Family History Research

- a. Thought Co: How to Begin Tracing Your Family Tree  
<https://www.thoughtco.com/steps-for-finding-family-tree-online-1421677>
- b. Society of Genealogists: Top 10 Tips for Getting Started with Genealogy UK  
<http://www.sog.org.uk/learn/education-sub-page-for-testing-navigation/guide-one/>
- c. Genealogy 101: Kalamazoo Public Library  
<http://www.kpl.gov/genealogy/101.aspx>
- d. Family History Research: Sevier County Public Library  
<http://www.sevierlibrary.org/history-center/352-2/>
- e. Proper Research Strategies Teaching History  
<http://teachinghistory.org/digital-classroom/ask-a-digital-historian/25219>
- f. USA.Gov Genealogy and Family History: Learn How to Research Ancestors  
<https://www.usa.gov/genealogy>
- g. Sandbox Education: Family History and Genealogy for Kids [Research and Forms]  
<https://www.familyeducation.com/family-life/family-history-genealogy>

## 6. Educational Support Sites for Genealogy and Family History K-12

- a. Ellis Island Immigration search <http://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/>
- b. Ellis Island Family History Center  
<http://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/family-history-center>
- c. PBS History Detectives: Genealogy  
<http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/technique/genealogy/>
- d. Cyndi's List: Genealogical portal to the Internet  
<https://www.cyndislist.com/>  
<https://www.cyndislist.com/handy/portals/>
- e. Library of Congress Using Primary Sources for Teachers: Middle and High School  
<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/index.html>
- f. Library of Congress: Manuscripts from the Federal Writer's Project 1936-1940 Life Histories <https://www.loc.gov/collections/federal-writers-project/about-this-collection/>



- g. Library of Congress: American Folklife Center: Folklife and Fieldwork: An Introduction to Cultural Document [pdf] by the Library of Congress [Middle and High School] <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/fieldwork/>
- h. National Archives <https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy>  
<https://www.archives.gov/files/calendar/genealogy-fair/2014/handouts/session-1-handout-kluskens.pdf>
- i. National Archives: Teaching with Documents Middle and High School <https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons>
- j. National Archives: Resources for Genealogists <https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy>
- k. National Genealogical Society <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/>
- l. Genealogy.com Gen Ed Forum [search surnames and genealogy topics] <http://www.genealogy.com/forum/>
- m. Library and Archives of Canada for Teachers <https://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/education/008-1000-e.html>
- n. Roots Web Soundex Converter to help identify spelling variations for surnames <http://resources.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/soundexconverter>
- o. Genealogy Quiz <http://www.witsend.org/gen/gentest.htm>
- p. Pinterest Images for Children's Family History and Genealogy <https://www.pinterest.com/jdbreathe/family-history-for-kids/?lp=true>
- q. <https://www.pinterest.com/explore/family-tree-projects/>
- r. US Census Bureau Genealogy  
<https://www.census.gov/history/www/genealogy/>  
<https://www.census.gov/topics/population/genealogy.html>  
[https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/United\\_States\\_Census](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Census)
- s. Lesson Planet Genealogy Lesson plans all grades <https://www.lessonplanet.com/lesson-plans/genealogy/all>
- t. US GenWeb Project – free genealogy on the Internet by state <http://usgenweb.org/>
- u. US Gen Web Archives <http://usgwarchives.net/>
- v. US Gen Web Project COKidsGenWeb for History and Genealogy: Lessons, Forms, Activities <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cokids/>

- w. Canada Gen Web for Kids Project  
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cangwkid/>
- x. Genealogy Spot For Teachers: Genealogy Research, Immigration, Family Trees  
<http://www.genealogyspot.com/resources/teachers.htm>
- y. African-American Genealogy: Finding Your Roots  
<http://www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com/african-american-genealogy-%E2%80%93-finding-your-roots-2/>

## 7. Educational Activities and Lesson Plans for Genealogy and Family History K-12

- a. Family History in the Classroom: Genealogy for Kids from Genealogy.com by Maureen Taylor  
[http://www.genealogy.com/articles/research/74\\_taylor.html](http://www.genealogy.com/articles/research/74_taylor.html)
- b. Family Search: Family History Activities for Children 3-11 – A Wiki  
[https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family\\_History\\_Activities\\_for\\_Children:\\_3-11](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Activities_for_Children:_3-11)
- c. Family Tree Magazine: family tree kids!  
<http://kids.familytreemagazine.com/kids/default.asp>
- d. Genealogy Society of Illinois: Genealogy for Kids: Lesson Plan links  
<http://www.csagsi.org/genealogical-resources/genealogy-kids>
- e. Genealogy in the Classroom Resources for Students and Teachers  
<http://www.victoriags.org/school/classroom.php>
- f. PBS ETV History Detectives: African American History: Climbing the Walls Genealogy Resources and Student Activities  
<http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/educators/lessonplan/african-american-history-climbing-the-wall/>
- g. Family Locket Family History Ideas for Children and Teens  
<http://familylocket.com/family-history-for-children-and-teens/>
- h. Bright Hub Education: Teaching Your Students About Genealogy: Elementary and Grade School Activities and Links  
  
<http://www.brighthubeducation.com/elementary-school-activities/104321-mapping-out-your-genealogy-lesson/>
- i. Scholastic Unit on Genealogy Grades 3-5  
<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/unit-plans/teaching-content/celebrate-your-heritage/>
- j. Hot Chalk Lesson: This is Your Life Grades 8-1

<http://lessonplanspage.com/sslaothisisyourlifefamilytreeinterviewtreasurewriting712.htm/>

- k. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints: 25 Terrific Ideas for Family History Fun by M Deputy and M Jeppsen  
<https://www.lds.org/new-era/1986/03/25-terrific-ideas-for-family-history-fun?lang=eng>
- l. Family Tree Grade School, Middle School, & High School Project Ideas  
<http://www.hiddengenealogynuggets.com/familytreefun/familytreeschoolproject.php>
- m. DAR Daughters of the American Revolution Educational Resources Lesson Plans  
<http://www.dar.org/national-society/education/dar-educational-resources>
- n. The Valley of the Shadow Project: The Civil War: University of Virginia Library and the Virginia Center for Digital History: The Eve of the War, The War Years, The Aftermath comparing two American communities one Northern and one Southern  
<http://valley.lib.virginia.edu/>
- o. Civil War Lesson Middle/High School  
<https://www.civilwar.org/learn/educators/curriculum/middle-school/genealogy>
- p. Family History Timelines <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/creating-family-timelines-graphing-870.html?tab=4>
- q. World for Learning: Generation-to-Generation Activity  
<http://worldforlearning.com/world-study-guides/generation-to-generation/>
- r. Family Search: Family History Wiki  
[https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family\\_History\\_Lesson\\_Series](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Lesson_Series)
- s. Roots Web and Ancestry Resources  
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~rummykin4/fhc2.htm>

## **8. Oral History and Interviewing Resources**

- a. Step-by-Step Oral History Guide: Judith Moyer  
[http://dohistory.org/on\\_your\\_own/toolkit/oralHistory.html#DOIT](http://dohistory.org/on_your_own/toolkit/oralHistory.html#DOIT)
- b. Oral History Association <http://www.oralhistory.org/>
- c. Genealogy Interview Process and Suggested Questions  
<http://www.mykidsadventures.com/investigative-reporting-for-kids/>  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ubUlbgLr1htdSsWCw5mFINqjdBAIv2v1d7ZD4JSnCtA/edit#>

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/16gJ3mzlaOw1VZVeiCs9IN8y-haKUxW3WCoWitvMYR-s/edit>

<http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/Quest.html>

<http://www.scrapbookscrapbook.com/familytreequestions.html>

d. Family History Home Evening: Family History Stories

<https://www.lds.org/topics/family-history/family-home-evening?lang=eng&old=true>

d. Crestleaf Search and Capture Family History story <http://crestleaf.com/>

e. Connections Academy Family Bulletin Board

[http://www.connectionsacademy.com/resources/instructographics/a-family-tree-activity-for-kids?\\_ga=1.121573000.1424524364.1491327126](http://www.connectionsacademy.com/resources/instructographics/a-family-tree-activity-for-kids?_ga=1.121573000.1424524364.1491327126)

## 9. Immigration Search

a. US Homeland Security US Citizenship and Immigration Services: Researching Individuals [Nationality Records 1790-1956 and Arrival Records]

<https://www.uscis.gov/history-and-genealogy/research/individuals/researching-individuals#arrival1>

<https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/teachers/lesson-plans-and-activities>

b. Library of Congress Port of Entry: Immigration Teacher and Classroom Materials

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/activities/port/>

c. Education World: Coming to America Immigration Builds a Nation: Activities K-12

[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_lesson/lesson204.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson204.shtml)

d. CastleGarden: The Battery Conservancy America's First Immigration Center Database of 11 million immigrants 1820-1892 <http://castlegarden.org/index.php>

## 10. Military Records

a. National Archives: Genealogy Research in Military Records

<https://www.archives.gov/research/military/genealogy.html>

b. US Coast Guard Muster Rolls and Genealogical Research

<http://www.uscg.mil/history/faqs/Genealogy.asp>

c. US Department of the Interior: Genealogical Research – Native Americans

<https://www.doi.gov/tribes/research>

## 11. Manuscripts and Newspapers

a. National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections

<http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/>

b. Newspaper Search: Library of Congress: Chronicling of America 1789-1924  
<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>  
<http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/usstate/usatable.htm>  
[Legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com)

c. Newspapers.com <https://www.newspapers.com/>

## 12. Cemetery, Graves, Burial Records

- a. Billions of Graves <https://billiongraves.com/>
- b. Find a Grave <https://www.findagrave.com/>
- c. Internment.com <http://www.interment.net/>
- d. Political Graveyard <http://politicalgraveyard.com/>
- e. Names in Stone <http://www.namesinstone.com/>
- f. Waymarking world-wide cemeteries  
<http://www.waymarking.com/cat/details.aspx?f=1&guid=205c956b-25b3-47fe-9fb1-2c758098e5cb&st=2>
- g. Teaching from the Grave Lesson Plans for Cemetery Research  
[http://www.history.com/images/media/pdf/teach\\_from\\_grave\\_SG.pdf](http://www.history.com/images/media/pdf/teach_from_grave_SG.pdf)
- h. Cemeteries and Kinship Studies: An Anthropological lesson Grades 5-7  
<http://anthropology.eku.edu/sites/anthropology.eku.edu/files/files/LessonPlan/SCAAC%20Activity%20GRADE%205%20Spencer.pdf>
- i. Terms used to describe cemeteries and grave markers  
[https://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/files/cem\\_glossary.pdf](https://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/files/cem_glossary.pdf)  
<http://www.history.org/history/teaching/glossary2.cfm>  
<http://www.monuments-of-distinction.com/id9.html>

## 13. Medical History and Genetics Research

- a. Inheritance of Traits for Students by Teach Genetics  
<http://teach.genetics.utah.edu/content/heredity/>  
<http://thegeneticgenealogist.com/2012/04/05/genetic-genealogy-and-personal-genomics-in-the-classroom-part-i/>
- b. Gene Ed: Genetics, Education, Discovery: Genealogical Tracing  
[http://www.genealogy.com/articles/research/74\\_taylor.html](http://www.genealogy.com/articles/research/74_taylor.html)
- c. Surgeon General's Family Health Initiative: Family Health History  
*Educational Resources on Genealogy and Family History for Teachers K-12 MBGS 2017*

<https://www.hhs.gov/programs/prevention-and-wellness/family-health-history/index.html>

d. Family Medical History [Mayo Clinic] <http://www.mayoclinic.org/medical-history/ART-20044961?p=1>

#### 14. Family History and Genealogy Books for Teachers, Children, and Youth

- a. **Roots for Kids** by Susan Provost Beller
- b. **Design Your Own Coat of Arms** by Rosemary Chorzempa
- c. *My Family Tree Workbook* by Rosemary Chorzempa
- d. *The Family Tree Detective: Cracking the Case of Your Family's Story* by Ann Douglass
- e. *Links to the Past through Genealogy: Curriculum Activities: Kathy Schrock's Every Day of the School Year* by Midge Frazel
- f. *Basic Genealogy for Kids* by Bonnie Hinman
- g. *Branching Out Genealogy: for 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Students* by Jennifer Holik
- h. *Branching Out Genealogy: for 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Students* by Jennifer Holik
- i. *Branching Out Genealogy: for High School Students* by Jennifer Holik
- j. *Dig Up Your Roots and Find Your Branches: A Child's Guide to Genealogy* by Susan H Hubbs
- k. *Teaching Genealogy to Young People* by Bee Barton Knoos
- l. **The Kids Family Tree Book** by Caroline Leavitt
- m. *If Your Name Was Changed At Ellis Island* by Ellen Levine
- n. **Coming to America** by Betsy Maestro
- o. *How to Research Your Ancestry* by Tamrra Orr
- p. **The Family Book** by Todd Parr
- q. **Me and My Family Tree** by Joan Sweeney & Activity website:  
<http://www.mccls.org/book%20pages/Me%20and%20My%20Family%20Tree.htm>
- r. *Who Do You Think You Are? Be a Family Tree Detective* by Dan Waddell
- s. **Climbing Your Family Tree: Online and off-Line Genealogy for Kids** by Ira Wolfman
- t. *Do People Grow on Family Trees? Genealogy for Kids and Other Beginners* by Ira Wolfman
- u. **The Great Ancestor Hunt: The Fun of Finding Out Who You Are** by Lila Perl Yerkow

\*Titles in BOLD are available in the Chapin Memorial Library

#### 15. Teacher Blogs for Genealogy and Family History

- a. GeneaBloggers <http://www.geneabloggers.com/genealogy-blog-primer/types-genealogy-blogs/>
- b. Family Search Blog <http://www.geneabloggers.com/genealogy-blog-primer/types-genealogy-blogs/>
- c. Debs Delvings in Genealogy ; Enhancing Genealogy with Teachers  
<http://debsdelvings.blogspot.com/2011/11/enhancing-genealogy-with-teacher.html?m=0>