

A Family Tree

Grade Levels: 5-7

Overview

After exploring a family tree website, and the teacher going through their family tree, students are inspired to research their own family histories.

Objectives

- Students will use vocabulary related to family history research.
- Students will classify family information.
- Students will research their own ancestry.

Materials

- [Family Genealogy Worksheet](#)

Procedures

1. Introduce key [vocabulary](#): **ancestors, family tree, roots, surnames**
2. Work with students in small groups to explore [RootsWeb](#). Search for information on your own family, explaining each step that you take.
3. As students become more familiar with the site, encourage them to ask questions and help you make decisions.
4. After exploring the site, have students gather in small groups to complete the [Family Genealogy Worksheet](#). Prompt them to brainstorm as many responses as possible for each category.
5. Let students take the activity worksheet home, using it to open a discussion of family history. Invite them to research their own families at the library, on the Internet, or by interviewing relatives.
6. Have students make presentations about their family histories. These might include family trees, maps, or illustrated reports.

Assessment

Use [A Family Tree Checklist](#) to assess students' understanding of how to research family history. Assign a point value to each item.

Extensions

- Explore TeacherVision's [Immigration Theme](#) to find a wealth of lessons and resources on the topic.
- Encourage students to write a journal entry describing a day in the life of an immigrating family.