



## Family History Fun with the Family

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“Our efforts to promote temple and family history work should be such as to accomplish the work of the Lord, not to impose guilt on his children... We should understand that in the work of redeeming the dead there are many tasks to be performed, and that all members should participate by prayerfully selecting those ways that fit their personal circumstances at a particular time... Our effort is not to compel everyone to do everything, but to encourage everyone to do something.”

Elder Dallin H. Oaks

“Family History: ‘In Wisdom and in Order’,” *Ensign*, Jun 1989, 6

### Helpful Resources

Start with the Church’s resources by going to [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) or by contacting your ward family history consultant.

#### Web Sites

- **Cyndi’s List.** This comprehensive Web site lists many types of resources to get children and teenagers involved in family history. [www.cyndislist.com/kids.htm](http://www.cyndislist.com/kids.htm)
- **Ancestors.** The Web site for the PBS program *Ancestors* provides a teacher's guide for starting a family history project. [www.pbs.org/kbyu/ancestors/firstseries/teachersguide/](http://www.pbs.org/kbyu/ancestors/firstseries/teachersguide/)
- **U.S. GenWeb Kidz.** This site contains information on how to get started in family history research, including mailing lists especially for kids. [www.rootsweb.com/~usgwkidz/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgwkidz/)
- **World GenWeb for Kids.** This site provides basic information for children and teenagers interested in family history. [www.rootsweb.com/~wgwkids/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~wgwkids/)
- **Genealogy for Kids.** This site links to records and how-to articles about family history. [www.genealogyspot.com/features/kids.htm](http://www.genealogyspot.com/features/kids.htm)
- **National Genealogical Society.** The National Genealogical Society has a Youth Resources Committee that gathers genealogy information suitable for ages 5 to 18. This site also includes lesson plans for teachers. [www.ngsgenealogy.org/youth.cfm](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/youth.cfm)
- **Games.** There are many Web sites with templates for games and puzzles that you can adapt to family history, including [www.techteachers.com/jeopardytemplates.htm](http://www.techteachers.com/jeopardytemplates.htm), <http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/>, [www.crosswordpuzzlegames.com/create.html](http://www.crosswordpuzzlegames.com/create.html), [www.teach-nology.com/web\\_tools/materials/bingo/5/](http://www.teach-nology.com/web_tools/materials/bingo/5/)

## Books

- *Ancestor Hunt: Finding Your Family Online* by Nancy Shepherdson. This guide for teens covers basic genealogical skills but emphasizes online sources and activities.
- *Climbing Your Family Tree: Online and Offline Genealogy for Kids* by Ira Wolfman. This book covers all aspects of genealogy, including interviews, documents, and Internet resources. For grades 5–9.
- *Creating Junior Genealogists: Tips and Activities for Family History Fun* by Karen Frisch. This book has lots of great ideas on how to make family history fun for kids.
- *Dig Up Your Roots and Find Your Branches: A Child's Guide to Genealogy* by Susan H. Hubbs. This book contains instructions for creating a family tree and searching for information. It also includes puzzles, charts, a genealogy dictionary, and a list of Web sites. For ages 4–8.
- *Do People Grow on Family Trees? Genealogy for Kids and Other Beginners* by Ira Wolfman. This genealogical primer includes activities, history, photographs, illustrations, and reminiscences. For ages 8–12.
- *The Family Tree Detective: Cracking the Case of Your Family's Story* by Ann Douglas. This book provides a solid method for conducting genealogical research for grades 4–8.
- *The Kids' Family Tree Book* by Caroline Leavitt. This book contains research ideas and creative projects for young genealogists.
- *Marbles, A Player's Guide*, by Shar Levine and Vicki Scudmore. You could use this book to introduce children to a common game of marbles their ancestors would have played.
- *My Apron*, by Eric Carle. This book has simple illustrations that may inspire children to illustrate their own family history books.
- *Roots for Kids: A Genealogy Guide for Young People* by Susan Provost Beller. This book is based on a course for fourth graders, but it can be used by individuals as well as teachers. For grades 4–8.
- *Sidewalk Games Around the World*, by Arlene Erlbach. This book will help you introduce children to the games their ancestors may have played.
- *They Were Strong and Good*, by Robert Lawson. This Caldecott-winning book is about the author's ancestors and may inspire you to write a similar book about your family.
- *Through the Eyes of Your Ancestors* by Maureen Taylor. This book tells how to access a variety of resources, including vital records, church records, newspapers, and Web sites. For grades 4–8.
- A series from Read All About It Books helps children understand the world their ancestors lived in. This series includes:
  - What Was It Like Before Television?* by Rosie Hankin
  - What Was It Like Before the Telephone?* by Paul Humphrey and Lynda Stevens
  - What Was It Like Before Electricity?* by Carolyn Scrace and Paul Bennett

## My Action Plan

What are three activities I could do to involve my family in family history?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.