

From old roots
to the newest leaf,
celebrate your family by making
a family tree.



Creating a Family Tree

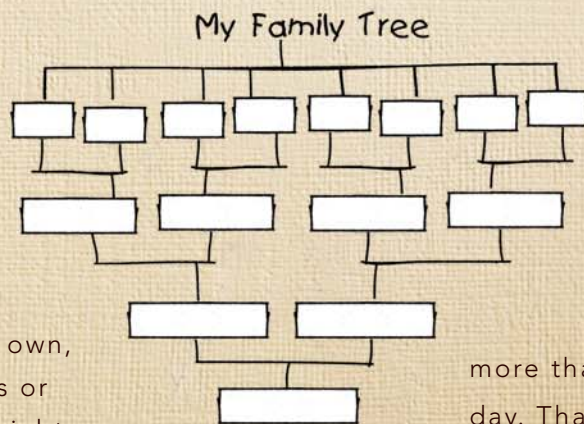
is a great way to bring your family together and have some fun discovering the generations that came before you and learning how their lives have helped to shape your family today.

Getting it all down on paper.

The holidays are a perfect time to start. While visiting relatives, ask them to share their knowledge, memories and stories of parents and grandparents, great aunts and uncles as far back as they can remember. Capture on paper the anecdotes and funny stories. Each is a little gift that can be passed from one generation to the next.

Making it personal.

The traditional family tree is a piece of quality paper that has a drawing of a large tree and spaces where the names of each generation can be written on successive branches. But there is no reason to stop there. Many people use this tree as the covering for a memory box that contains all kinds of interesting letters, photos, keepsakes, mementos and official documents such as birth certificates or marriage licenses. To make it truly your own, add artwork, borders, captions or notes—whatever makes it special to you. And don't forget—there is an abundant variety of beautiful, recycled papers you could use to create your project.



All the resources you need.

While making your family tree, it's nice to know that you are starting something that can grow and be enjoyed for generations to come. That's true not only of family trees, but the millions of

real trees growing today in North America's forests. To make sure there will always be abundant forests, and abundant paper and wood products for your family to enjoy, the wood and paper products industry plants

more than 1.7 million new trees every day. That's one reason there are 10 million more acres of forest in the U.S. now than 15 years ago*. To find out more and link to helpful resources, visit www.abundantforests.org

Pulling It All Together.

Now that you are ready to get started on researching your family lineage and creating your own lasting family history on paper, review the following pages containing tips to follow, questions to ask, forms to fill out, and resources to utilize. Make sure you also invite members of your family to join in—especially children—so as you are exploring your family's history, you are also building lasting moments to add to your own.

From old roots ~ a family tree

Getting Started

Basic steps to tracing your lineage

Family is our most valuable resource, and one we should cherish every day. Compiling information and creating a family tree is a wonderful way to explore and preserve your rich family history. Begin with the steps below and start tracing your family tree!

- Select a single name and surname. Once you have a beginning point you can focus on that limb and then branch out the rest of your tree.
- Collect papers, photos, documents and any other family items you have—and ask all of your relatives for items they may have. Every piece of information tells a story and will add to your family tree.
- Set aside time to interview family members and collect stories, not just names and dates. For a printable form of suggested questions, [click here](#).
- Write down everything you've learned from your family and keep copies of everything.
- [Search the Internet](#). There's a wealth of knowledge you can find at the touch of a key. There may be someone out there who has already gathered information about your family.
- Visit where your family lived and make sure you check out courthouses, cemeteries, neighbors, churches, etc.
- Locate important records—wills, marriage licenses, death notices, land deeds, etc.
- Put down all your information on an Ancestry Sheet. This way you can have all the detailed information on each relative on one easy-to-reference page. [Click to print](#) out multiple copies so you can trace all of your relatives!
- Create a beautiful family tree with your family and display it in your home. Start with yourself, or your child, and work your way up the tree - from one generation to the next! [Click here to begin!](#)



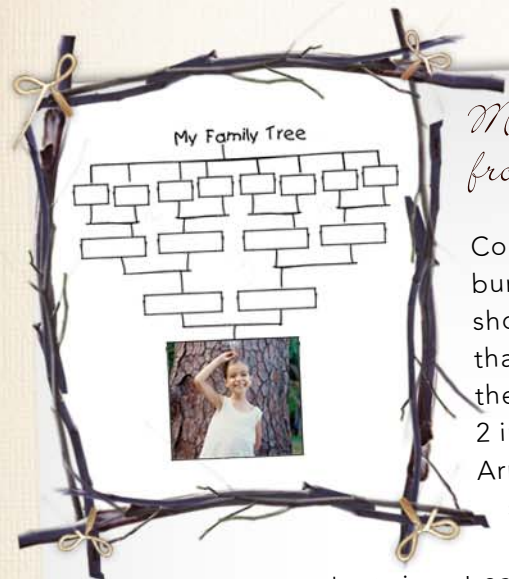
Questions to Ask When Gathering Family Information

There's more to a family tree than names and dates. Having conversations with relatives and asking questions is a wonderful way to get to know the *real* story of your family.

- What is your full name and why were you named it? Was it in honor of someone?
- What were the names of your parents and grandparents (and great grandparents, if you know)? What were your mother's and grandmothers' maiden names? Did your parents or grandparents have any sisters or brothers? What were their names?
- Where were your parents born? From which part of the world did each of their families hail? What languages were spoken in their homes? When and where did your relatives first enter the U.S.? When did you or your relatives become a U.S. citizen?
- Do you recall meeting cousins, second cousins or third cousins as a child? What were their names and how were you related?
- Has anything been passed down to you through your parents or grandparents? Have they left any photographs of themselves, heirlooms, notes they wrote or newspaper clippings about themselves? Did they have a family Bible in which they recorded births, marriages and deaths?
- Did any of your relatives serve in the military? (The National Archives can provide you with extensive information about servicemen and women.)
- Did you ever watch your parents or grandparents at work? What did they do for a living?
- Do you still have records of birth or marriage certificates, deeds to a house, wedding invitations or funeral cards from your relatives?
- How far did your parents (and grandparents) advance in school? Were there any degrees? If so, what institution(s) did they attend?
- Are there any stories about your family that have been passed down for generations? What are they?

Family Activities to Build Your Own Family History

Trees have been around for millions of years, with many growing to produce the very paper on which we trace our family trees. And now that you're getting in touch with your family's roots, let the beauty of trees help you log your findings. Here are some fun and meaningful activities and crafts to do just that.



Make a picture frame from twigs.

Collect 2 bunches of twigs (each bunch about 6 to 8). One bunch should be about 2 inches longer than the width of your picture; the other bunch should be about 2 inches longer than the height.

Arrange the twigs so that they surround the front of the photo and extend about an inch in

each direction. Tie the twigs at each corner using twine or string and glue the photo onto the back of your twig frame. If you want to hang your picture, you can also glue a small loop of string to the top batch of twigs. You can use this homemade picture frame to hold the family tree you make, an old family photo or anything else that represents your family history.

Take a walk in the woods with someone you love.

There's nothing that can make people feel closer than spending time with each other away from the hustle and bustle of daily life. Go for a leisurely stroll through the forest with a family member and talk about life, love and anything else close to your heart. Your relationship will be stronger for it. And don't forget - always stay on paths and take any litter with you.



Family Activities to Build Your Own Family History

continued...



Create your family tree display from construction paper and tree branches.

Find a twig with many branches. Put a lump of clay in the bottom of a cup and insert the twig to the clay so that it's sturdy. Cut out big leaves from construction paper and write the name of each family member on one leaf (i.e. Grandpa Joe or Aunt Robin). Punch a hole on the end of each leaf and tie it to a branch of the twig so that the branches vertically portray the family's youngest to oldest members.



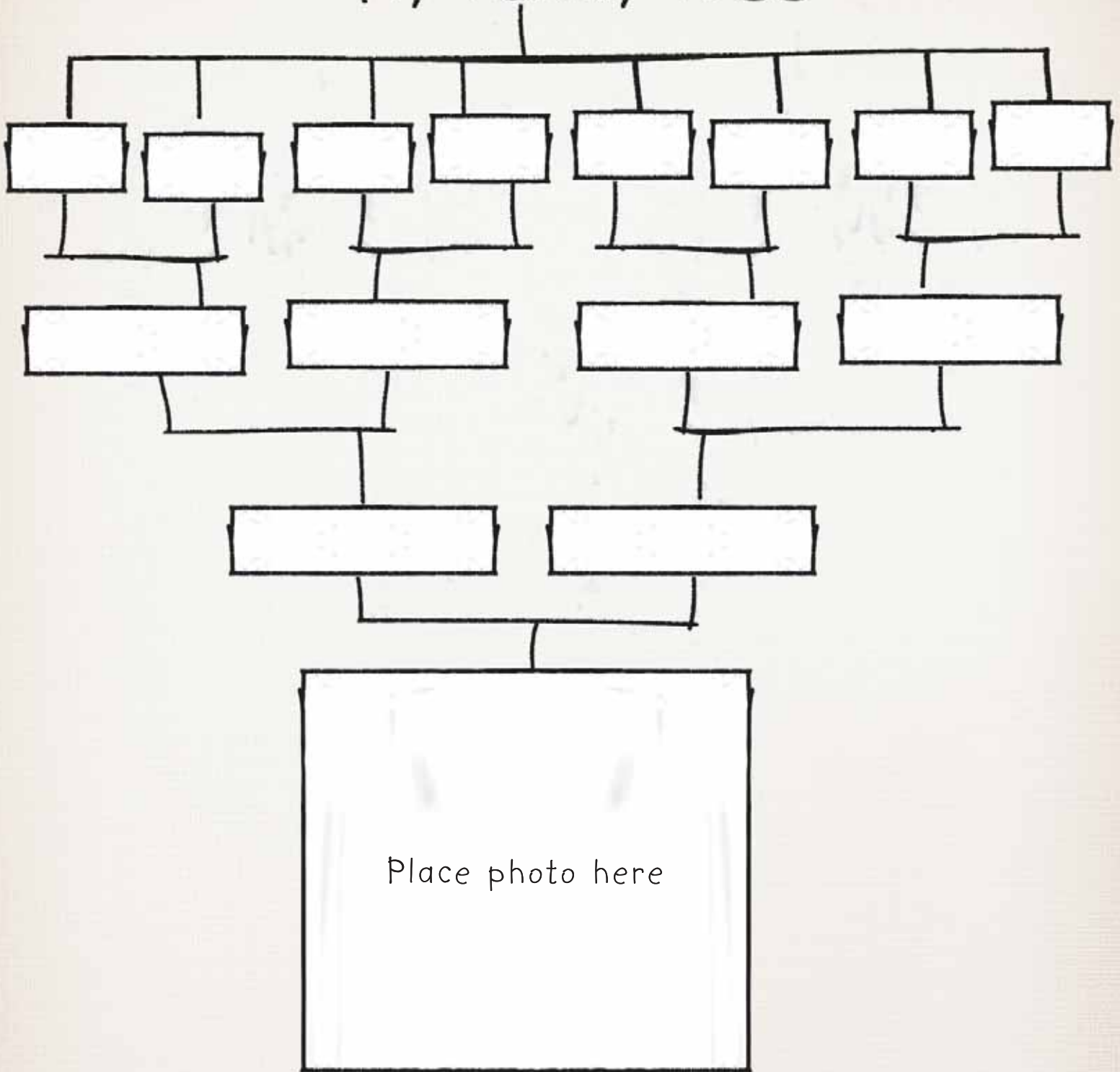
Plant a tree in honor of your family - past and future.

Trees date back further than our first ancestors, and will be here for all future generations to come. Like our families, trees too have roots, and when they grow and fulfill their destiny, the next generation is always growing behind them. Plant a tree in your backyard in honor of all the relatives that lived before you and all the future generations that will be able to enjoy the beauty of watching it grow and thrive.

For more detailed information, you can visit:

www.treehelp.com/howto/howto-plant-a-tree.asp

My Family Tree



From old roots ~ a family tree

Ancestry Sheet of the _____ Family

Full Name of Husband

Birth Date and Place

His Father

Marriage Date and Place

Death Date and Place

His Mother with Maiden Name

Full Name of Wife

Birth Date and Place

Her Father

Death Date and Place

Her Mother with Maiden Name

Other Spouses	Marriage Date and Place

Children of This Marriage	Birth Date and Place	Death Place	Marriage Date, Place and Spouse

Notes:

Helpful Resources

- Abundant Forests Alliance
www.abundantforests.org

- Family Tree Magazine
www.familytreemagazine.com

- Ancestry.com
www.ancestry.com

- The National Archives
www.archives.gov/aad

- National Genealogical Society
www.ngsgenealogy.org

- Where to Write for Vital Records
www.cdc.gov/nchs/howto/w2w/w2welcom.htm

- Family Tree Book Company
www.barnettesbooks.com

- Genealogy Today
www.genealogytoday.com

- Genealogy.com
www.genealogy.com

- RootsWeb.com
www.rootsweb.com