

## **PRESERVING FAMILY HISTORY**

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### **OVERVIEW**

Students will gather and help preserve information about their family history.

### **STANDARDS**

- History Standard 2: Students know how to use the processes and resources of historical inquiry.
- Reading and Writing Standard 3: Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

### **OBJECTIVES**

Students will be able to:

- Interview members of their family.
- Do family history research.
- Take the initiative in recording and preserving their family history.

### **INQUIRY QUESTIONS**

- Who are the people in your old family photographs?
- Why should you record the names of people in old photographs?

### **PROCEDURE**

1. Photos brought to class by the students. A Family Memory Record Sheet to preserve information from the photographs (see below).

2. Ask each student to find four or five old family photographs that include at least one person who is not identified and whom they do not recognize. Ask them to bring one of those photographs to class.
3. Have each student do a "think aloud" with that photograph. That is, the student should express his/her own curiosity about who the unidentified person is, whether he/she may have been a relative, and point to clues (such as where and when the photo was taken) that may help answer these questions.
4. Emphasize that the importance of recording the names of family members who appear in old photographs while there is still someone around who recognizes them. Otherwise, the family may lose track of its history.
5. Hand out the "Family Memory Record Sheet" (see below) and ask the students to interview a parent or relatives who can help them identify the unrecognized persons in the photographs they have selected. They should record the information on the sheet.
6. On a designated day, the students are to bring the photographs and the record sheet to school and share their information with the class.
7. They can then make a photo album with their photographs, writing captions using the information they have gathered. (This may help some students notice and read captions in books!)
8. Students should be encouraged to continue collecting information about other family pictures.

## Family History Record Sheet

Brief Sketch of Photograph

Who?  
\_\_\_\_\_

How are the people related to you?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Where?  
\_\_\_\_\_

When?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What was the event? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Why was the photo taken?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_