



## YOUTH AND FAMILY HISTORY

Did you know? Studies prove that children with a knowledge of their family history face life challenges better. Knowing about their family helps young people feel more stable and a part of something bigger than themselves. Family stories give them strength and courage.

Involve your children and youth of all ages in family history. Make it fun and interesting by adapting ideas that are available to their interests and talents. Family history can change their lives!

### ***ONLINE RESOURCES FOR YOUTH AND FAMILY HISTORY---***

#### **[FAMILYSEARCH.ORG](#)**

#### **FAMILY SEARCH WIKI IS LOADED WITH IDEAS FOR YOUTH**

Open FamilySearch.org and click on Search in the toolbar at the top. You do not have to be signed in to use the Wiki. In the drop down window select Wiki. When the next window opens select WIKI on the toolbar. Type “youth” into the search window. Search results will pull up over 100 articles containing ideas and information about involving youth in Family history. These are three of the articles:

**Involve Children and Youth in Family History:** [Click here](#) for activity ideas, such as talking to relatives (a list of questions is included), going on family history fieldtrips, eating foods ancestors ate, playing family history games, and creating personal histories. Also included are age specific suggestions, links to websites and book titles, There are extensive suggestions for teaching the information to youth.

The article has two appendices. Appendix A contains instructions for creating family history games. Appendix B gives ideas for creating a family history coloring book.

**Family History Activities for children 3-11:** [Click here](#) for links, charts, and exercises to help teach children about their current and extended family. There are multiple links; among them are printable fill-in-the-blanks Life Story form and a site that helps you create a crossword puzzle using family history names and places.

**Family History Activities for Youth: 12-?:** [Click here](#) for links that pique curiosity. For example, links for learning what was happening when the youth or their ancestor were born and other links that show how to create a puzzle with scanned photos. Ideas are given for creating a family memory by planning a

family reunion. There are also suggestions for Young Women's Personal Progress and Young Men's Duty to God requirements. Personal journal ideas as well as fun and games are included too.

## **FAMILYSEARCH FAMILY TREE OFFERS WAYS TO GROW YOUR TREE**

Sign in to FamilySearch.org then click on FAMILY TREE located on the toolbar at the top. Youth 13 and older can create an account. Youth can explore their family tree and add to it by doing actual research, documenting data, and uploading stories and photos. Numerous sources of instructions are part of the site.

## **LDS.ORG HAS A SPECIFIC SECTION FOR YOUTH AND FAMILY HISTORY**

On the home page click on **Youth** in the drop down menu under **Resources**. Once within the Youth section **Youth and Family History** is found in the **Youth Menu** on the right. Select **Youth and Family History**. The page that opens up is filled with links to stories, videos, helps for getting started, and more.

## **GOOGLE CAN MAKE THEM GIGGLE**

There are multiple sites just for kids and family history. Here are two:

<http://kids.familytreemagazine.com/kids/default.asp>

<http://disney.go.com/disneyvideos/animatedfilms/tiggermovie/familytree.html>

## **FIND A GRAVE.COM ISN'T SPOOKY!**

This site enables youth to look up the gravesites of ancestors. They will see a picture of the headstone and/or family story. Instructions on how to become a contributor or to take charge of an existing virtual memorial are also on the site.

Do something unique on your family vacation and walk around an old cemetery you pass. Stop and have your youth take pictures of all the headstones and the entrance to the cemetery. When they get home, or in the evening in the hotel, instead of playing video games have them upload the pictures to Find a Grave. Thus they become part of a big worldwide service project to document cemeteries.

## **TEENS ARE TECNOGEEKS!**

A technogeek is someone who is trendy in keeping up with technology. **Mobile devices** have turned our youth into technogeeks and we adults aren't even close to keeping up with them! They seem to intuitively understand anything electronic and the apps that are available for it. Mobile devices have become a necessity to them; sometimes it appears the devices are glued to their hands!

Take advantage of the youths' attraction to mobile devices and help them become experts in family history by using their devices for everything from taking pictures to actually inputting genealogical information. Here is a smattering of the information on the Internet:

[cyndislist.com/mobile/iphone/](http://cyndislist.com/mobile/iphone/)

## **INSTAGRAM & GRANDMA BETTY**

Zachary wanted to do something special for his 80-year-old great-grandma so he started an Instagram account. In the process he has documented her funny, warm, positive, courageous spirit. He has done

family history! He has brought her great joy at a trying time and put smiles on thousands of people's faces. Youth can see what he did on Instagram, Facebook, Youtube, or they can simply Google "Grandma Betty."

Using mobile devices youth can do the same for their grandparents, parent, or sibling and create a unique family history gift for posterity.



### ***YOUTH HELPING YOUTH: ESPECIALLY FOR THE LITTLE ONES***

Have older youth create a **Family History Card Game**. Using pictures of family members and events create a set of cards that can be used to play a game similar to Crazy 8s. Make wallet size prints of the pictures you choose. Each picture should have 4 copies. In the upper corner of each picture put a sticker such as a colored smiley face. Use 4 different colors of smiley faces and put one of each color on each set of matching prints, thus creating 4 suits of cards. (Just as in other decks of cards, i.e. hearts, diamonds, spades, and clubs.) Make at least 14 sets of 4 cards plus one set of "wild" cards that function like the 8 does in a Crazy 8s game. Using a funny picture of Mom and Dad or Grandma and Grandpa is great for the wild cards.

Sets of 4 wallet size prints can be ordered from drugstores, or you can simply copy them on your computer, using cardstock paper. They will hold up better if laminated. Stickers are available at many craft and school supply stores. If you don't want to spend the money you can simply use colored markers and draw stars in the upper corner of the pictures.

Set up the game by dealing 8 cards to each person then placing one card up to begin the discard pile and placing the remaining cards next to it as the draw pile. To begin playing one person must play a card that matches either the picture or the sticker color. If they can't they must draw a card. If that card can be played they play it right then, if not they put it in their hand and their turn is over. The object is to rid yourself of all your cards. The winner is the first one who plays all of his or her cards.

When playing you can add to the game by telling the stories of the pictures or naming the people. Many variations of other familiar games can be played with the cards: Matching or Concentration; War; Go Fish. Use your imagination and in the process interest your children in their immediate and or extended family, depending on what pictures you use.