

Family Stories: We're All Part of History

Most of us think that history is only something we read about in books. We don't realize that we are *all* part of history, that *we* are making history--and that our experiences and those of our families, friends, neighbors and classmates all have something to teach us.

In this activity, you'll discover that *everyone* has a story. When we ask good questions and listen to each other, we understand each other better. Make a phone call or use an app to connect. You may be surprised by how much this interview means to the person you call.

What to do:

1. Interview a family member or a person you know who has had a life-changing experience, Use the questions on the next page. Feel free to add your own questions. Write the responses to the interview questions on a piece of paper.
2. Think about the person's answers. Does it change the way you view him or her? Does it change the way you view yourself? Was there anything that surprised you? Explain.
3. Find a way to share what you learned about the person. Here are some ideas:
 - a. Write a poem, story or song about the person's life
 - b. Draw a picture of the person. Here's a lesson for making portraits using black and gray [crayons](#). You can use any materials you have. Write a caption to go with your picture.
 - c. Make an exhibit panel about the person with an illustration and a caption that will help someone understand something about your subject.
 - d. Make a book with illustrations and text describing important moments in the person's life. You could write a "dual memoir" with incidents from your own life and the other person's. For ideas, read the memoir, [Finding Kalman](#), written by a Holocaust survivor and her daughter. This presentation has more ideas.
 - e. Write a letter to the person telling him or her what their story meant to you.
4. Share your creation with the person you interviewed and other members of the family or community.

Name _____

Date _____

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1. What is your name?
2. How old are you?
3. Where are you from originally? Where do you live now?
4. Describe an experience that changed your life?
5. Why was the experience life changing?
6. Is there anything else you'd like to tell me?