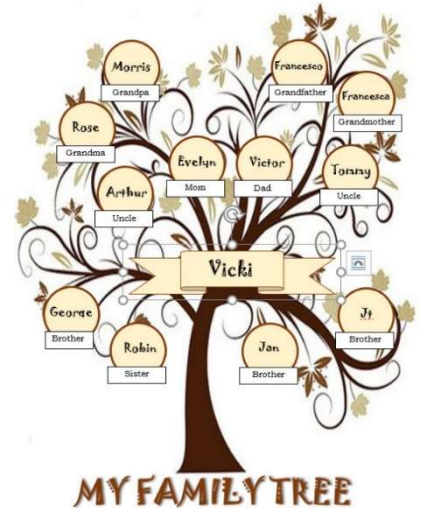


## My Family Tree & Me

Submitted By: Vicki Chirco – D&R Canal State Park

The study of history usual means learning about people and the lives they lived in the past. Most of us don't think about ourselves when we learn about, or talk about, history. While it's true that history is the study of the past, it is also about us, our families, relatives and ancestors. This special kind of family history is called genealogy. Every family is connected to the larger story of the past. You are part of the story! Your parents, brothers and sisters, half-brothers and sisters, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins are part of the larger story of our country.



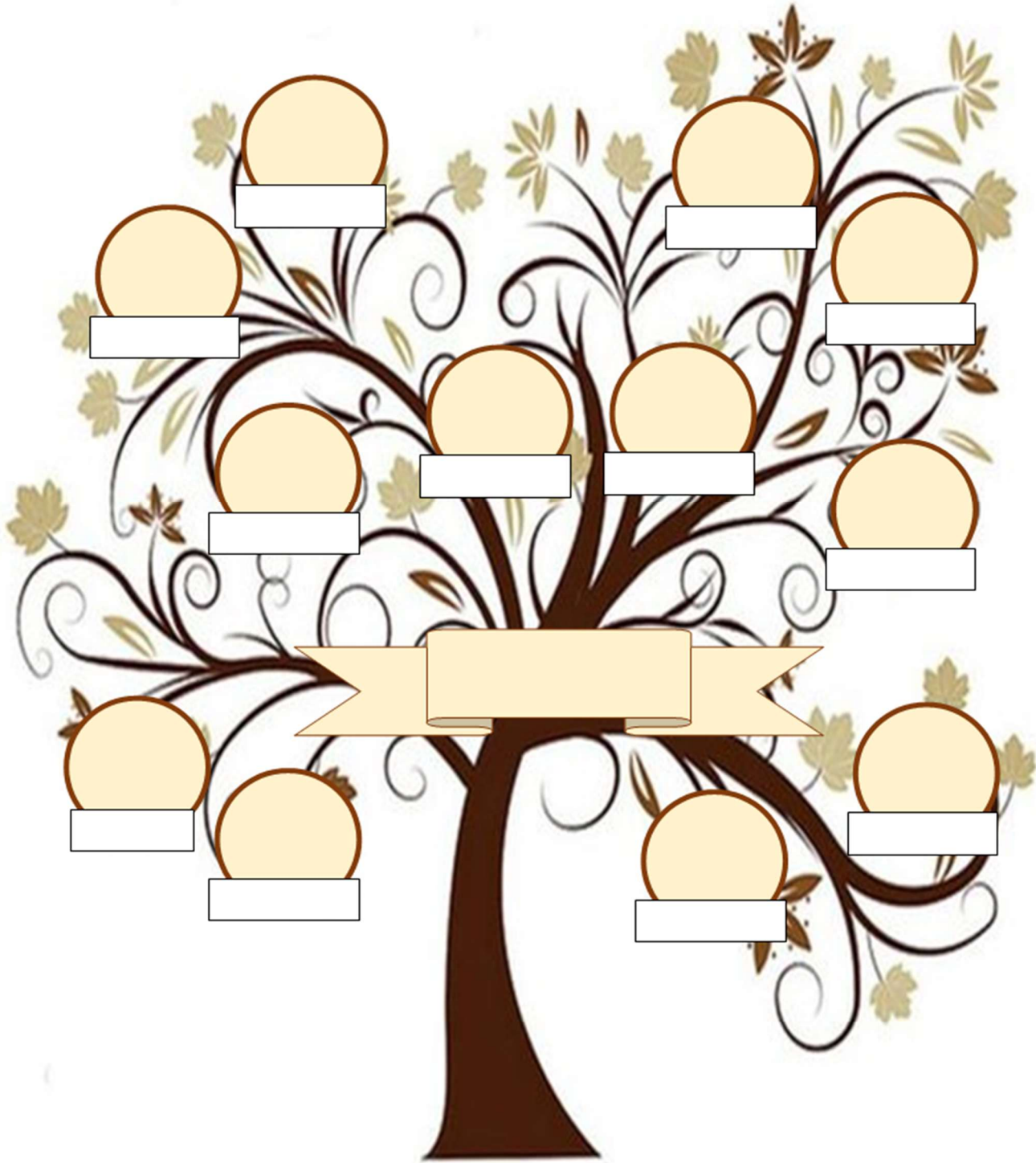
Not everyone has the same kind of family. Some live with a mom and dad, others just a mother, father, aunt, uncle or grandparent and some may have two moms or two dads. It isn't important if your family isn't like mine or your best friend's because no matter who you call "family," they are all part of your own story.

Let's tell that story – YOUR family story! This history activity can help you discover your family's unique story. Begin by growing your **own family tree** like the one pictured above. Start by putting your name in the middle and then add your family members – who they are and their names – in any order you like (*there may be too many circles or not enough; feel free to add your own if you need more*). Ask your family members for help if you need it. After you are done with that then add information about yourself by answering the questions on the **"Stuff About Me"** pages. When that's done have a little fun with the **family description page** by noting which family member is the most fun, the cleanest, the tallest, the best cook, etc.



And finally, it's time to learn more about your family members. The **"Family Member Questionnaire"** page can help you with that task. Here you will find a list of suggested questions you can ask individual family members to learn more about them. This section of this history activity is done with your family. Find a time when you can have a conversation with one or several family members. Ask them questions about themselves and write down their answers or record the interview if you want. Their answers will help you discover their part of your larger family story. You may learn about relatives you never met!

Take your time and don't worry - there is no wrong way to do this activity. And remember to have fun writing your story and discovering your family history!



## MY FAMILY TREE

# STUFF ABOUT ME

TODAY'S DATE:

MY NAME:

MY AGE:

MY ADDRESS:

MY PARENTS NAMES ARE:

MY BROTHERS AND/OR SISTERS NAMES ARE:

MY PET'S NAME(S) IS (ARE):

I DON'T HAVE A PET BUT IF I DID IT WOULD BE A:

I ATTEND SCHOOL AT:

MY FAVORITE TEACHER(S) IS (ARE):

MY BEST/FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL IS:  
BECAUSE:

MY WORST SUBJECT IN SCHOOL IS:  
BECAUSE:

MY BEST FRIEND OR FRIENDS IS (ARE):



History Activities At Home



MY FAVORITE COLOR:

MY FAVORITE FOOD:

THE FAVORITE MUSIC:

MY FAVORITE SHOW(S):

MY FAVORITE MOVIE:

MY FAVORITE BOOKS:

MY FAVORITE PLACE(S) TO GO IS (ARE):

THINGS I REALLY LIKE TO DO:

THINGS I REALLY HATE DOING:

THE BEST THING ABOUT LIVING NOW IS:

THE WORSE THING ABOUT LIVING NOW IS:

THESE ARE THINGS I REALLY LIKE ABOUT MYSELF:

I'D LIKE TO TRY AND IMPROVE THESE THINGS ABOUT MYSELF:





**EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN UNIQUE PERSONALITY OR SPECIAL TALENT. IF YOU HAD TO DESCRIBE EACH OF YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS (*your parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts & uncles, cousins*), WHO BEST FITS THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTIONS?**

The best cook:

---

The hardest-worker:

---

The quietest:

---

The most generous:

---

The best gardener:

---

The funniest:

---

The animal lover:

---

The biggest troublemaker:

---

The calmest:

---

The most athletic:

---

The smartest:

---

The most interesting job:

---

The most creative:

---

The most fun:

---

The neatest:

---

The messiest:

---

The biggest worrier:

---

The tallest:

---

The shortest:

---

The best storyteller:

---



# Family Member Questionnaire

What follows is a list of questions that will help you to tell the story of your family. Use this list as an aid to help discover your own family history and stories. You can record the interview if you want. It's amazing what you can learn about your family when you sit down with an older relative (*Mom, Dad, Aunt, Uncle, Grandparent, Cousin, etc.*) and start asking them questions. You may not get to ask all the questions below and that's OK! In fact, you will probably find that that one memory will automatically lead into another question. Look at the list and start with the questions you'd most like to ask. **The list is meant to be used as a guide.** Go ahead skip questions you don't like and feel free to add your own. Learning about your family should be enjoyable as well as informative so remember to **HAVE FUN being the family historian!**

1. What is your full name and why were you named it?
2. Were you named after somebody else?
3. Did you have a nickname as you were growing up?
4. If you did, what was it and why did they call you that?
5. Where were you born and when?
6. What are (were) your Mother and Father's names?
7. Do you remember your great-grandparents? What do you know about them? What were their names?
8. Who was the oldest person you can remember in your family? What do you remember about them?
9. Was there a chore you really hated doing when you were young?
10. What would you consider to be the most important inventions that have been made during your lifetime?
11. How is the world now different from what it was like when you were growing up?
12. What kinds of books did you like to read?
13. What were your favorite toys and what were they like?
14. What were your favorite childhood games?
15. What were your schools like?
16. How did you get to school?
17. What was your favorite subject in school and why?
18. What was your least favorite subject in school and why?
19. Who was your favorite teacher and why were they special?
20. What school activities and sports did you participate in?
21. Did you and your friends have a special place where you liked to go when you were growing up? Where was it and what did you do there?
22. Did you ever win any special awards at school or for any activities?
23. Did you get good grades?
24. Did you like school?

25. What did you like the most and the least about it?
26. How did you meet the person that you married?
27. Do you remember where you went on the first date with your spouse?
28. When and where did you get married?
29. Describe your wedding. Who was there?
30. What do (did) you admire most about your spouse?
31. How long have you been married (or were you married)?
32. How many children did you have?
33. What were their names, birth dates and birth places?
34. What did you find most difficult and the most fun about being a parent?
35. What advice do you have for your children and/or grandchildren?
36. As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?
37. What was your first job?
38. What kinds of jobs have you had?
39. How did you decide on your career?
40. How old were you when you retired?
41. Who was the person that had the most positive influence on your life?
42. Is there a person that really changed your life by something that they did? Who were they and what did they do?
43. Do you remember someone saying something to you that had a big impact on how you lived your life? What was it?
44. What wars have been fought during your lifetime? How did you feel about them?
45. If you served in the military, when and where did you serve and what were your duties?
46. If you served in the military, were you ever injured in the line of duty? If yes, then how and what were your injuries?
47. What U.S. President have you admired the most and why?
48. As you see it, what are the biggest problems that face our nation and how do you think they could be solved?
49. How tall are you?
50. What color are your eyes?
51. Where have you lived as an adult? List the places and the years that you lived there.
52. Do you wish you lived somewhere else (If so, where would it be)?
53. What do you do for exercise?
54. Do you have any bad habits now or in the past? What were they?
55. Has anyone ever saved your life?
56. Have you ever saved anyone else's life?
57. If you could change something about yourself, what would it be?
58. What is the scariest thing that has ever happened to you?
59. What kinds of musical instrument(s) have you learned to play?
60. What is the funniest practical joke you ever played on anyone?



61. What are your hobbies?
62. What do you like to do for fun?
63. What is the most amazing thing that has ever happened to you?
64. What is the most embarrassing thing that has ever happened to you?
65. Have you ever met any famous people? Describe what happened.
66. What is the most beautiful place you have ever visited and what was it like?
67. What was (is) your favorite vacation? Where did (do) you go and why was (is) it special?
68. What pets have you had?
69. Do you have a favorite story about a pet? What is it?
70. Is there anything you have always wanted to do, but haven't?

### **ASK ABOUT YOUR FAMILY MEMBER'S FAVORITE THINGS:**

1. What is your favorite kind of music?
2. What is your favorite musical instrument?
3. Who is your favorite musical group?
4. What is your favorite song?
5. Who is your favorite singer?
6. Who is your favorite celebrity?
7. What is your favorite movie?
8. What is your favorite TV program?
9. Who is your favorite author?
10. What is your favorite book?
11. What is your favorite season?
12. What is your favorite flower?
13. What is your favorite holiday?
14. What is your favorite color?
15. What is your favorite sport?
16. Who is your favorite athlete?
17. What is your favorite animal?
18. What is your favorite food?
19. What is your favorite fruit or vegetable?
20. What is your favorite candy?
21. What is your favorite cookie?
22. What is your favorite restaurant?
23. What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?
24. What is your favorite game?