

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

Genealogy Project - 7th Grade Social Studies

The students will spend the next few weeks researching their families' genealogy (family tree). Last year in the 6th grade, students made a family tree as part of their autobiography project. This year, the main goals are to expand the family tree to include more distant ancestors, to research the origins of the family surname, and to learn about the ancient cultures of our ancestors. The goal is to take last year's project to the next level.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- If students choose to make their family tree on the Internet, students must NEVER enter their own personal information on any website (real name, birthday, home location, etc.) Use a nickname or pseudonym.
- For some people genealogy is a "touchy" subject. The point of this project is to learn about our past, not to pry into family secrets (adoption, divorce, suicide, crimes, etc.) This is intended to be a positive experience. Students can pick and choose which family members to research. In the case of a divorce or adoption, students can research step- /adoptive parents or biological parents or all parents.
- Students from some Asian countries have traditionally had problems adapting Asian naming systems (particularly the system used in India) to the system used by European descendants, so feel free to improvise.
- Most African-American students have European last names due to the slave trade. Those students can focus on a country or region in Africa rather than Europe for "My Ancient Ancestors" if they choose.

You can make a family tree on paper, in book form, a poster, a scroll, or on the Internet (print it out for the final project). For the first couple weeks, we will gather research information in a notebook. Visit <http://www.freewalt.com/socialstudies/projects/familytree.htm> for a list of helpful genealogical research websites.

FINAL PROJECT WILL BE MADE INTO A BOOK (SEE DIRECTIONS BELOW).

Project Directions: The final project can take the form of a scrapbook, textbook, magazine, newspaper, or some other creative format. It should be divided into four distinct parts or sections. The content of each part will consist of 20% of your final project grade. The remaining 20% will be graded on neatness, creativity, visuals such as photos, and overall look of the finished project. Be sure to include copies of family photos, records, pictures of your ancestral country, and other pictures (and documents if you can find them) throughout your project. Use color, interesting design, and other creative pizzazz to make your project look nice. The four parts will be as follows:

1. My Family Surnames (Part 1 checkpoint September 23)
2. Family Heritage (Part 2 checkpoint September 30)
3. Ancient Ancestors (Part 3 checkpoint October 7)
4. My Family Tree (Part 4 checkpoint October 14) **completed book due Monday, October 17**

Part 1 "My Family Surnames"

Directions: Research your mother's and father's surnames for this part. If your own surname is different from one of your parents, you can substitute your own surname for one of your parents' surnames or add it as a third surname. Your project must contain information about two different surnames. Answer the questions below to get started, and then put everything together in paragraph form.

Your "surname" is your family name. In Western cultures, it is the "last name". Part of this project will include finding the origin of your surname. Some surnames are easier to research than others. Visit <http://www.freewalt.com/socialstudies/projects/familytree.htm> for a list of helpful surname origin websites.

- HINT: When looking up the meaning of your name, you might need to break the name up into different parts (for example "Kohlhorst" is German → *kohl* = cabbage, *horst* = refuge, probably named for a person who worked at or owned a storage building for cabbage)
 - Is your surname related to the name of an ancient group of people? (ex. David Lombardo → the Lombards were a tribe in ancient Italy)
 - Is your surname related to the name of a region or geographic feature of a country? (ex. Theresa LaValley → family ancestors lived in a valley between mountains)
 - Is your surname related to an occupation? (ex. John Miller → a "miller" is someone who operates a grain mill or sawmill)
 - Is your surname related to a physical attribute? (ex. Taylor Swift → a family of quick runners)

Father's Surname (or your own surname if different):	Mother's Maiden Surname:
Variations, alternate, or old spellings:	Variations, alternate, or old spellings:
Country/Region (countries/regions) of origin:	Country/Region (countries/regions) of origin:
What does the surname mean?	What does the surname mean?
How old is the name?	How old is the name?
Does your family have a crest, shield, or coat of arms? Describe it, then print or draw it on a separate page.	Does your family have a crest, shield, or coat of arms? Describe it, then print or draw it on a separate page.
Does anyone famous (or infamous) share your surname? (a president, conqueror, athlete, etc.)	Does anyone famous (or infamous) share your surname? (a president, conqueror, athlete, etc.)
Fun facts about your surname or notes	Fun facts about your surname or notes
Why did the family come to the United States? (you'll probably have to ask a relative to answer this one)	Why did the family come to the United States? (you'll probably have to ask a relative to answer this one)
What part of the United States did the family settle first?	What part of the United States did the family settle first?
Why might they have chosen that location?	Why might they have chosen that location?
Is the surname more common in one part of the US than another? Which states?	Is the surname more common in one part of the US than another? Which states?

Part 2 "Family Heritage"

Directions: This part of your project will be a summary story of your overall family heritage, including interesting facts, stories, photos (only copies, not originals), and documents. HINT: Talk to your parents about this. If possible, call your grandparents or great-grandparents to help you with this part. They love to tell stories about this kind of thing. Answer the questions below the chart to help you get started, but feel free to add your own ideas too. Put everything together in paragraph form for your final project.

- Are there other surnames (cousins, great-great-grandparents, distant relatives, etc.) not listed in the chart above but are interesting, historically important, or otherwise worth noting? (ex. Grandma's cousin was President Franklin Roosevelt)

- Are there other countries of origin not listed in the chart, but are in your family tree somewhere? (ex. Mother's maiden name is Smith, but she was adopted from an orphanage in China or great-great-great-grandfather was a full-blooded Cherokee Indian)

- Have you found photos or records for your ancestors? (remember to include only copies) (records = birth / death certificates, immigration papers, family shield, photos, journals, etc.)

- Interesting stories about your parents / grandparents / great-grandparents / other relatives or ancestors. All families have stories. (ex. occupations, military service, travels and adventures, royalty, poverty, horse thief, family castle in Transylvania, Aunt Gertrude was the bearded lady in a circus ☺, etc.)
 - How did your parents (grandparents) meet?
 - Did Grandpa fight in a war?
 - What was it like to live without electricity?
 - Do you have a rich uncle?
 - Etc.

Part 3 “Ancient Ancestors”

Directions: Use your family tree or complete the chart below with surnames through your great-grandparents. Then, find the countries/regions of origin for all eight of those surnames. This will give you a clearer understanding of where your ancestors came from.

Your Father Surname:				Your Mother Maiden Surname:			
Grandfather Surname:		Grandmother Maiden Surname:		Grandfather Surname:		Grandmother Maiden Surname:	
Great-Grandfather Surname:	Great-Grandmother Surname:	Great-Grandfather Surname:	Great-Grandmother Surname:	Great-Grandfather Surname:	Great-Grandmother Surname:	Great-Grandfather Surname:	Great-Grandmother Surname:
Surname Country or Region of Origin:	Maiden Surname Country or Region of Origin:	Surname Country or Region of Origin:	Maiden Surname Country or Region of Origin:	Surname Country or Region of Origin:	Maiden Surname Country or Region of Origin:	Surname Country or Region of Origin:	Maiden Surname Country or Region of Origin:

Directions: Research the country or region you believe to be YOUR ancestral homeland. Answer the questions below to help you get started. An encyclopedia, your textbook, or a book from the library might help you research this. **Put this in your own words!!!** All of this information should be put in paragraph form in your final project.

- Based on the countries of origin for each of your great-grandparents' surnames and/or what you know about your family's ancestral background, which country do you consider to be YOUR ancestral homeland? (Note: This is up to you. In some circumstances, your ancestral homeland may not match your surname. ex. adopted students or African-Americans due to slavery)
- _____
- Which chapter(s) of our textbook and/or which other sources describe your ancient ancestors?
 - Give a brief description of the modern country or region today.
 - Give a brief description of the area in ancient times (our textbook may be able to help you with this).
 - What ancient civilizations lived there? (names of empires, tribes, etc.)
 - What might life have been like for your ancient ancestors?
 - environment
 - resources

- clothing

- foods

- technology / tools

- religions / gods / beliefs

- languages

- type of government

- names of important historical rulers / leaders

- other important or interesting facts about your ancient ancestors...

NOTES:

Part 4 "My Family Tree" – Directions: Use can use the following tree to get started. Or, if you prefer, you can use a website such as Ancestry.com (there are others), or a program such as Family Tree Maker. If you have your family tree from last year, you may use that as your starting point, but **THE FAMILY TREE YOU TURN IN FOR THIS PROJECT SHOULD GO ABOVE AND BEYOND WHAT YOU TURNED IN LAST YEAR FOR YOUR AUTOBIOGRAPHY!!!**



6 Generation Pedigree Chart

Chart # _____

No. 1 on this chart is same as # _____ on Chart # _____.

The boxes by the male names may be filled in with a color or mark to indicate when all the work has been completed for that family.

