

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

# GENEALOGY IDEAS

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

It can be fun to find out more about your family—your roots! Here are some ideas to get you started:

1. Begin by asking questions of older members of the family. Get a notebook and record their answers.
2. Be a very good listener. As people talk, try to remember what they say and how it relates to you and your history.
3. Be an observer. Whom do you look like? Find family photographs. Ask permission to organize them. If you are adopted or live with guardians, don't be afraid to ask questions, observe, and work to get more information. The people you live with are your family.
4. Take your time and find out about ONE BRANCH of the family at a time.
5. Your country has a history. America is filled with immigrants from countries all over the world. Ask people in your family about their national origin. Their answers will give you more information about your country.
6. Begin your search for your roots by asking questions about the family NAME.
7. Next, ask about DATES and PLACES OF BIRTH.
8. Find out about MARRIAGES.
9. Find out about OFFSPRING (children).
10. Find out about DEATHS.
11. Find out about MOVES TO OTHER LOCATIONS.
12. Write letters to out-of-town relatives for more information. Have a special place for your notebook and letters.
13. Go to the courthouse and look up historical documents about your family.
14. Use technology as well. Find appropriate places on the Internet to trace your family history.
15. Read about genealogy in the book DO PEOPLE GROW ON FAMILY TREES? GENEALOGY FOR KIDS & OTHER BEGINNERS (The Official Ellis Island Handbook), by Ira Wolfman, with a foreword by Alex Haley. New York: 1991. Workman Publishing, Illustrations by Michael Klein.