**Student guide to family history. Some links..Top 10**

So what can a teacher do to integrate genealogy into the classroom? There are many different opportunities. Take a look at some of the techniques and tools genealogists use to research families and see how they can be used for teaching.

**Oral History** Every family has an oral tradition that includes adventures, stories about places lived and interesting family members. Children, as natural storytellers, listen carefully to these tales passed on from generation to generation. By interviewing family members about their lives they learn a set of skills, including creating a list of questions, planning a project and transcribing what has been said. This can be done with members of their own families or residents of an elderly apartment house through an intergenerational program. Younger students will be incredulous to learn that the modern conveniences they take for granted didn't exist during the childhoods of the people they are interviewing.

**Home Sources** Photographs, documents and artifacts often provide clues to family history. Ask students to research the history of one or two significant items in their homes or owned by relatives that have a prominent place in a their genealogy. It could be their grandfather's passport, a wedding photograph or even a piece of furniture. The oral traditions surrounding artifacts can add data to a family history. Let the students research how and when particular articles were used to give them a sense of their family's place in social history.

**Calendars and Timelines** Have students create an individual timeline adding historical context to their lives by finding national and local events that occurred at key points in their lives. They can document the points on the timeline by using materials created in their lifetimes. Timelines can lead to a discussion of calendar changes (Gregorian to Julian) and the different types of devices used to keep track of time around the world. They can use the timelines to write a personal memoir recounting the important points in their lives or focus on a family member and write a biographical account of their life. If a personal timeline is uncomfortable, timelines for relatives, famous persons or buildings or places are alternative projects.

**Names** An exploration of the origin of student's first and last names can be fascinating homework. Ask students to find out the story behind their name including who named them and whether it has significance within the family. Students may find that they are named for a relative, or that their first or last name was created especially for them.

**Local History** Social historians, public historians and genealogists understand that the lives of individuals become part of local history. Family history introduces students to a larger historical context. An alternative to researching their own families is to encourage students to research a local historical figure or a name they find in a city directory. Students can work as a team to research their school or even a house in the neighborhood.

**Immigration and Assimilation** For older students, genealogy and family history offers a personal way to view the processes of immigration and assimilation. Again, students can use their own families, or using passenger lists, census documents, city directories and other resources to trace the way individuals found their place in America.

This is only an introduction to the many ways that genealogy can be incorporated into a classroom setting. Family history is not restricted to subjects that depend on written forms of expression. Students with artistic inclinations can use photographs, needlework, paint and dioramas to help others understand their family history. Musically talented individuals can play pieces from their ancestor's eras while other students can prepare time capsules and even create tours of landmarks important to their genealogy. Teachers who creatively approach the topic encourage their students to expand their base of knowledge about themselves and the world around them.

1 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/familyhistory/get_started/>

2 <https://www.family-tree.co.uk/getting-started/getting-started/how-to-start-your-family-tree/>

3 <https://www.genealogy.com/articles/research/74_taylor.html>

4 <http://www.sog.org.uk/learn/education-sub-page-for-testing-navigation/guide-one>

5 <https://www.teacherplanet.com/content/family-history>

6 <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/?research-category=family-history>

7 <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>