

YOUR STORY

Overview

While culture is the daily life of a group of people, individuals in the same culture group have many distinctions that influence their way of life. Use the activities below to identify the many elements of culture that tell the story of who you are.



1. MAP YOUR STORY

Create a map that shows your ancestry by identify the birth location of as many family members as possible. If your family has lived in one country for a long period use a large map of that country. If you are able to trace your family history to many countries use a world map. Place a dot on the map for the location of each family member for as many generations as you can.

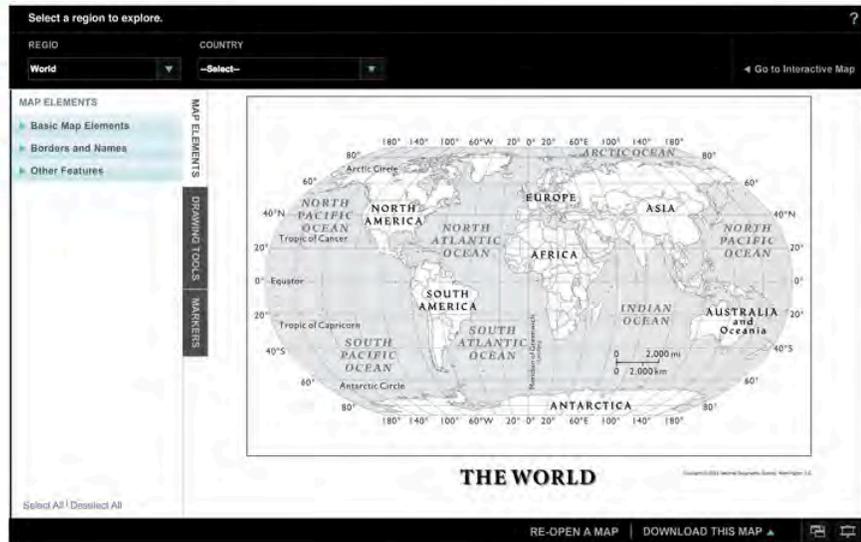
A dot map, or point symbol map shows the specific location of where something is found (for example the birth place of a family member).

Use the following website to find the map that best suits your needs:

http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/mapping/outline-map/?ar_a=1

Select the map scale (world, country, state) →

Turn on/off map features using these options →



2. RESEARCH YOUR STORY

Pages 3 and 4 contain questions to help guide you as you write your story. The Family Storyboard contains questions for you to ask your great-grandparents, grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, guardians, or others close to you about your family and what life was like for them. Ideally you will have an opportunity to interview numerous people so you will get many perspectives. Your story started before you were born and your family has influenced many of your cultural beliefs and practices so it is important to start by collecting their stories. The questions are meant to be a guide; you don't need to ask all of

them and you can ask your own questions. Also, asking the same question to several people (especially of different generations) is a great idea. Thinking ahead to the final part of the project “Tell Your Story” (see #3 below) will help you decide how you will collect your story: will you create a storybook or a video? If you will be creating a book, take good notes or record each interview. If you will be making a video, practice using the video camera before the interview so you are familiar with where people need to sit to be seen and heard. One key to capturing a good video is keeping the camera stable, so use a tripod if possible.

3. TELL YOUR STORY

It’s now time to pull together your map, pictures of you and your interviewees and family, and the interviews themselves to tell your story! Use your creative genius and talents to present your story in a way that best represents you. Take time in planning what you are going to do before you start the process. Here are some tips:

Book

Start with a trip to a craft store to find a book that meets your needs, or use your own construction paper. There are all sorts of resources available for book-making as many people create scrapbooks. While people often create a book that moves chronologically (from the oldest information to the newest), feel free to set up your book however you want. Typing up the stories and interviews is a good idea to avoid grammatical errors and to make sure that it is legible. Also, be sure to use glue that won’t damage your pictures and paper when attaching items to your book.

Video

If you haven’t made a video before, now is the time to start! Many smartphones and MP3 players have quality video cameras, along with applications need to edit the videos. Another way to edit the video is through YouTube’s video editor: <http://www.youtube.com/editor>. In addition to your interview video clips, don’t forget to add pictures and your map (take a photo of or scan the map) to get your full story. Be sure to plan ahead if you have never made a video before, because it can be a time-consuming process.

FAMILY STORYBOARD

Interview a family member, guardian, or close family friend who knows about your family ancestry:

What parts of the world does our family come from?

Do we have any family traditions that we follow from our ancestors?

Interview a family member, guardian, or close family friend who grew up in a different time period:

What was a typical day like when you were a kid (school, chores, meals, activities, etc.)?

Interview a family member, guardian, or close family friend who grew up in a different time period:

What was the hardest thing about growing up and how did you face that challenge?

Interview a family member, guardian, or close family friend who grew up in a different time period:

What is the most memorable event from your childhood? What made it special?

Interview a family member, guardian, or close family friend who grew up in a different time period:

What sort of rules/expectations did your parents have for you as a teen?

Interview a family member, guardian, or close family friend who grew up in a different time period:

What was the house and neighborhood that you grew up in like?

Interview a family member, guardian, or close family friend who grew up in a different time period:

What were your aspirations when you were younger? Who/what influenced you to pursue your dreams?

Interview a family member, guardian, or close family friend who grew up in a different time period:

What is the best advice you have for me about life / growing up?

PERSONAL STORYBOARD

What is your earliest memory as a child?
Where was it?
Why does it stand out?

Who was your best friend as a child?
What were your favorite activities as a child?

Where was your favorite place to go as a child?

What is your earliest recollection about what you wanted to be when you grew up?

What secret talent do you have that most people are unaware of?

Who do you look up to and why?

What do you think is the hardest thing about being a child/teenager today?
What is your best advice for dealing with challenges in life?

What are your future goals and how are you going to work to achieve them?