

Genealogy: Planting the Seed for a Lifelong Interest



The key to successfully passing down your genealogical research begins with sparking interest in your family on the topic, whether it be in the research involved or the uniqueness of your family history. No two stories are the same. The earlier in age you explore your family together, the better. Grandchildren are prime candidates to enculturate, but your children can also help you get there by involving them in your genealogical discovery route.

Key factors to consider include the following:

*A child's learning style involves aural, visual, and kinesthetic experiences. Try to include as many as possible as you explore the topic of genealogy.

*At suggested ages 4-8, complete projects with your grandchild that explain the dynamics within your family. Focus mainly on parents and grandparents. Use age-appropriate projects.



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*At suggested ages 10-14, when your grandchild will have a better grasp of the concept of life and death, bring your ancestors more into the picture. Again, keep in mind the ability of your grandchild to handle such a sensitive theme. www.newspaperfinder.com www.loc.gov/collections/chronicling-america/about-this-collection/ (Library of Congress digital newspapers)



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*In those early teen years discuss with your grandchild the immensity of your family tree and the role that genetics plays in your grandchild's makeup.

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