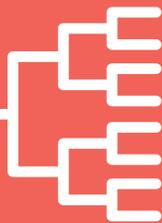


MANY



ACTIVITY

FIND

TAKE

TEACH



HISTORICAL FACTS FOR YOUR ANCESTORS

The purpose of this activity is for class members to learn more about the lives of their ancestors and how to place their ancestors in history.

This activity will help the class experience life situations in which their ancestors lived. They will learn how their ancestor's culture affected the lives they lived.

TIME:

40 minutes

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Family time line example
- A time line showing major events in the area where your ancestor lived and in his or her life

Optional Materials:

- A computer and screen for demonstration, if the bandwidth in your building permits (please see the *Technical Guidelines* for family discovery day organizers for tips on improving the Internet connectivity.)

PREPARE

- 1. Review the activity instructions below.
- 2. Gather all materials needed for the class.
- 3. Select one of your deceased families (or another person's deceased family) to use as an example. If possible, choose a family that was from the same area or country you are living in currently. Find out something about the history they lived through (such as a war, an epidemic, or a natural disaster), and think how it may have impacted their lives.
- 4. Seek out resources for learning more about significant social, political, or geographical events that occurred during your ancestor's life. Create a list of those resources that helped you find information.
- 5. See if there are records that were created about the event that might include information about your ancestor (war service records, death records, newspaper articles, and so on).
- 6. Work with a few class members to select a family's history to learn about, and ask them to be prepared to share what they have learned during the class. Help them identify some of the events that might have affected the family. See if FamilySearch has records that tell more.

CONDUCT THE ACTIVITY

We encourage you to modify this activity as needed and to use your own ideas and creativity as you accommodate to the needs and the interests of the people in your area.

Step 1: Introduce the Activity

Discuss why it would be important for class members to learn more about the lives of their ancestors and the history surrounding their lives and how this will help them to feel closer to their family.

Step 2: Share a Time Line

Share a time line of the family member you selected. Tell briefly where he or she lived and when. Recount some of the significant historical events that happened during the person's lifetime and how it may have shaped his or her life. Share what you have learned about the family by knowing about the history of the time.

Step 3: Research Family History Facts

Ask the class to share ways they could identify historical events that might have affected their family. (For example, who could they contact in their family? Where could they find out more about the history? What sites could they search online? And so on.)

Then ask class members to select an ancestor from their family tree. Give them 10 or so minutes to use a computer or mobile device to learn as much as they can about things that happened during the lifetime of that person.

Ask class members to briefly share what they have learned about their ancestors by understanding how their ancestors were affected by history.

Low Bandwidth Options

For areas where Internet connections are slow you might invite groups to write down on a poster or large piece of paper a time line representing their life. Ask them to write significant events that have occurred within their lifetime and how those events have affected their families. Then invite them to discuss significant events they have learned about from further in the past and how those events may have influenced their ancestors' lives.

Step 4: Discuss the Benefit of Learning Historical Facts

Ask class members to share historical events that might have affected the family. Invite them to add the events to the time line you created.

Invite a class member you worked with before class (see step 6 in "Prepare" above) to share what he or she learned and how that knowledge has affected his or her feelings for the family.

Step 5: Invite

Invite participants to go home and learn more about their ancestors and the time periods in which they lived. Encourage them to type what they are learning in FamilySearch.org and to share what they learned with others.

ADDITIONAL IDEAS FOR CONDUCTING THE ACTIVITY

Below are some additional ideas for this activity. You do not have to use these additional ideas.

Idea 1: Invite families to create time lines on large pieces of paper of the history that took place in the area where their ancestors came from. Ask them to make connections with where certain ancestors may fit in on the time line.

Idea 2: Encourage the youth to share what they learned about their ancestors on social media and use the hashtag [#FamilyDiscoveryDay](#) (or another related hashtag). Encourage them to tag friends and family that might find this information interesting or who would benefit from participating in family history.



THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS