



ACTIVITY



MEET MY ANCESTOR

The purpose of this activity is for class members to learn about one of their ancestors and to hear stories about other class members' ancestors. Learning and sharing stories about these ancestors will give class members an opportunity to feel the Spirit.

TIME:

30–40 minutes

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Paper
- Pens, pencils, or markers

Optional Materials:

- Photographs, journals, and heirlooms from this ancestor to bring for show-and-tell during your presentation
- Projector
- Computer, tablets, or smartphones 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. Gather information, stories, and photographs about one of your ancestors.
- 4. Prepare a presentation on the ancestor that you researched.
- Optional:* Ask class members to prepare a short presentation on one of their ancestors to share during the class.

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 with the class the importance of learning about our ancestors and how their stories can strengthen us. Share the scripture from Malachi 4:6. Talk about how learning stories about your ancestors can help us have a heart-turning experience. Emphasize that stories help ancestors to become more real to us, more than just names on a page.

Step 2: Introduce Your Ancestor

Share with members of the class stories, photographs, and heirlooms from one of your ancestors. Talk about how learning more about this ancestor has been a strength to you.

Step 3: Meet Others' Ancestors

Allow time for others to share stories about one of their ancestors with the class.

If stories have not been collected ahead of time, you might ask participants to research one of their ancestors on FamilySearch for a few minutes and share a story or other interesting piece of information that they find.

You could also invite them to use Wikipedia to search for information on an ancestor's city, historical and national events of the years your ancestor lived, and the state of the economy in which they lived.

Step 4: Discuss the Importance of Meeting Your Ancestors

As a class discuss the importance of learning your ancestors' stories. Share ideas on how to keep these stories living and recorded so that future generations can learn them. If time permits, allow class members to enter these stories in the Memories section on FamilySearch.

Step 5: Invite

Invite class members to go home and research one of their ancestors. Remind them of the importance of recording their stories. Encourage them to record new information they find in FamilySearch.

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: Consider dressing up as the ancestor you chose and encouraging any who are sharing an ancestor story to do the same. You might even consider acting out part of one of your ancestors' stories.

Idea 2: For those who have taken family names to the temple, invite them to share a story about one of those ancestors. Ask them to focus on blessings they received by taking the name of this specific ancestor to the temple.

Idea 3: Ask class members to think about how they would spend the day with their ancestors if they could go back in time. Invite them to write a schedule showing what activities they might do, what kinds of food they might eat, and the different types of labor that might need to be performed.

Idea 4: Families can play a "Who am I?" game by first locating an ancestor online, writing down answers to some specific fill-in-the-blank questions about the person, and preparing to share their findings with their family. Families can create their own list of questions, or you could provide them a list of questions such as these:

- I was born on in .
- I had brothers and sisters.
- Something interesting about me is .

Idea 5: Invite young children to color or draw a picture, write a poem, or sing a song that relates to the ancestor the family is learning about.



THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS