**ANCESTRY PATHFINDER**

Genealogy research is similar to putting together a jigsaw puzzle – you’ll search and search until you find the piece that fits! The key to finding your ancestors is to take one step at a time and be 100% certain of your family connections before moving on to the next generation. Researching your family roots can be a fun and rewarding adventure! Good Luck!

**Remember**

**Use limiters in web searches**

.edu, .gov, .org

**Use Boolean operators when searching**

and, or, not

**Place quotes around exact phrases**

“ “

**Website with no search box??**

Ctrl F

**Keyword Search Terms:**

Ancestors

Family

(history, records, roots, ties)

Genealogy

Generations

**Family Search Web Resources**

* **\*Ancestry**  <http://www.ancestry.com>
* **Cyndi's List** <http://www.cyndislist.com>
* **Ellis Island Records** <http://www.ellisisland.org>
* **Family Search** <http://www.familysearch.org>
* **Find A Grave** <http://www.findagrave.com>
* **Free Records Registry (must be registered member to access)** <http://www.freerecordsregistry.com/order-new.htm>
* **\*Heritage Quest Online** <http://www.heritagequestonline.com>
* **The National Archives** (search veterans’ service records) <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/>
* **Rootsweb** (part of ancestry) <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>
* **StateGenSites** Genealogy sites by state <http://www.genealogytoday.com/genealogy/states/>
* **The Tombstone Transcription Project** <http://usgwtombstones.org/>
* **VitalChek** (records available for a small fee) <http://www.vitalchek.com/>

\*Free access with either a Columbus Metropolitan, Westerville or Worthington library card. Ancestry is accessible from home with CML card (in-library-use at WPL & Worthington)

**Other Useful Web Resources**

**Family Tree Forms**

<http://kids.familytreemagazine.com/kids/teachersforms.asp>

**Guide to Family History Research**

<http://www.arkansasresearch.com/guideindex.htm>

**Soundex Converter**

(Sometimes names were spelled the way they sounded and spellings varied. This website will provide multiple ways a name could have been spelled.)

<http://resources.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/soundexconverter/>

**((**

**Genealogy Questions:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| What is your full name? | What holidays do you and your family celebrate? |
| Where were you born? | How many brothers and sisters do you have? |
| What languages do you speak? | Describe a favorite childhood memory. |
| What makes your family unique? |  |

**Genealogy Projects**

Choose at least two projects from the list below. The goal of these projects is to increase your understanding and appreciation of your family and family’s roots.

1. Create a family tree. Try to complete at least 6 generations leaving as few blanks as possible starting with yourself, your parents, grandparents, and so on.
2. Talk to someone in your family with whom you don’t usually spend much time. Have that person tell you about two interesting events that happened to him/her or someone else in the family. Be sure the stories are ones you have not heard before. Write down what is said.
3. Write a good, detailed description of someone In your family that you find to be interesting.
4. Interview an older person (in your family or someone else’s) about what life was like In the 1960s or 1970s. Write a report about life at that time.
5. If you are able to trace your family back to another country, write a report about that country.
6. Have a parent or grandparent tell you stories about yourself when you were younger. Write a report about what you learned.
7. Choose a project of your own related to your family or genealogy. Check with your teacher for approval of this project before you begin.