

The Model



Become Your Family Historian Part 1

The word **History**, means 'the story of the past'. Historians are like Detectives, they look at clues, interview people, and record what happened in years gone by so that we can all learn the story of the past.

Every grandparent has a special story to tell about what life was like when they were young. This is your chance to become your family historian, and using your extra special detective skills to record stories about the lives of your grandparents (or even great-grandparents) to share with all of your family. Don't be surprised to discover that a lot of your grandparents' likes and dislikes are similar to yours.

Remember this activity is especially designed to do together with your grandparents while you are apart, using digital technology. Tell your grandparents that you want to use the time in isolation to do something meaningful and important, and that you want to know more about their lives.



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ACTIVITY

- Ask your grandparents if they would like to do this activity with you, and be sure to ask if it's OK for you to record their voices.
- We recommend you use the **WhatsApp Voice Note** feature as it's easy to use. If you have a **Family Group Chat** on WhatsApp, maybe you would like to use this so that other family members can listen in on their phones too. This could be great fun for everyone!
- You can send your grandparents these simple instructions first:

- Open an individual or group chat on WhatsApp.
- Tap and hold the microphone, and start speaking. Once finished, remove your finger from the microphone. The voice message will automatically send.

OR

- You can tap and hold the microphone, then slide up to the 'Lock' icon and make a hands-free recording.
- Once finished, tap 'Send' to send the message.
- While recording a voice message, you can slide left to cancel it.

- There are other ways you can record too such as using two phones or downloading another app like Automatic Call Recorder, just ask your parents to help.
- Remember: You don't have to do this in one go. You can arrange a time every week to speak to your grandparents.
- **USEFUL TIP:** Detectives always keep track of their investigations by starting every conversation with the same sentence. As the family historian, here is an example of what you could say:

'Hello, my name is _____. Today is the _____ 2020 and I am going to record my grandfather's memories over the phone. Granddad, will you say your full name for the record?'

Asking the right questions is important so choose from the list below, and plan your questions before you start. Listen really carefully to the answers and take time if you want to make your own special notes before moving on to the next question. Everything you record is precious, so keep track of all your recordings.

Don't feel you have to ask every question, maybe your grandparents would like to see them in advance and decide which ones they like best.

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BACKGROUND

Tell me about your parents -
that would be my GREAT grandparents?

What were their names?

Where were they from?

Describe your mother?

Describe your father?

What were they like?

Who was the funniest person
you knew when you were a
child?

Describe him/her?

Did he/she tell you any stories?

And your brothers and sisters. Is
there anything that they did that
really impressed you?

Do you remember any of your grandparents –
my GREAT – GREAT grandparents?

What were their names?

Where were they from?

Describe them?

What work did they do?

CHILDHOOD

How did your parents choose your name, and does it have a special meaning?

When and where were you born?

Describe yourself as a child?

Were you named after a family member?

Who was your best friend when you were young and what did you like to do together?

Did you have a favourite toy when you were my age?

What was your favourite age to be?

What's the oldest memory you have?

What is the most important lesson that your parents taught you?

PLACE

Describe the house you grew up in?

Tell me about the place where you grew
up?

Do you know any stories, folklore or
history about the place you grew up in?

ANIMALS

Did you have a pet dog or cat
that you loved too?

What was his/her name?

Did your cat/dog ever go on an
adventure? Tell me about it.

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SCHOOLDAYS

What schools did you go to?
What were you like in school?
What is your funniest memory in school?
What were your favourite subjects?
Who were your favourite teachers and why were they your favourite?

LIFE EVENTS

Did you live through a war?
Was it hard?
Can you describe any holidays or trips you went on growing up?
If you could meet anyone from your past, who would it be and why?

PASTIMES

Do you have a favourite song? What is it?
Did you like reading when you were a child? What was your favourite book?
What kinds of games did you play?
Can you describe that to me?
What is different about growing up today than when you were a child?

LOVE

Tell me how you met my grandmother/grandfather?
Who proposed to who?
When and where were you married?
Where did you go on honeymoon?
What was the funniest moment at your wedding?

Tell me about the first time you ever met me?

This project is inspired by Dr. Tomás Mac Conmara

If you like, ask a parent or guardian to take a picture of a story you collected and share it with us. We will post your artwork on our website and Instagram account @modelsigo / #themodelinsideout