

ACTIVITY PAGES

Climb Your Family Tree (Thinking & Talking)

Most of us who live in the United States have ancestors from other countries. Maybe our great-grandparents were immigrants from Europe, or descendants of African slaves, maybe our grandparents moved here from Russia, the Philippines, or Mexico, maybe our parents came from Central America, Vietnam, or Japan. Maybe we came to the U.S. with our parents from El Salvador, Taiwan, or India. Lots of us have one parent whose family comes from one place, and the other who comes from the other side of the world! Maybe your parents met in California and started a family here.

Sometimes a person's kinship history can be drawn like a tree. Try it!

My Family Tree

Draw your family tree

Start with yourself at the bottom of the page. If you are a girl, draw a circle, if you are a boy, draw a square. Write inside the circle or square; your name, and where you live. If you moved from another country, write the first country and then an arrow, and then the U.S. Draw circles and boxes for any sisters or brothers you have, right next to you, and draw a line connecting you together.

Next draw a line straight up on the page from you, and put symbols for your parents. Since families are made so many different ways, if it's not your parents, draw whomever it is you live with in your home(s). Again, for females draw circles, for males, squares. Write inside their name and the country or countries where they come from, if it is outside the US, and where they live now. If you know they have sisters and brothers, draw symbols next to them and connect them, just like you did for your own siblings.

Keep going back in time, adding your grandparents, great grandparents, etc. If you don't know, ask at home! How many families can be remembered more than three generations? Draw a symbol for everyone you can find out about.

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(Climb Your Family Tree, continued)

En Mi Familia — In My Family

Now it's your turn to learn about your own family's dancing memories. Talk to your parents, your grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. What dances did your parents do when they were your age? What about your grandparents? Write them down on your family tree. The next time you get together, ask the people in your family to teach you some of the dances on the tree. When you are finished, you can write a story and draw a picture here of your family dancing.

Online: www.worldartswest.org/plm/guide/activitypages/thinktalk/familytree.shtm