

Culture & Language Camp



Learning objectives: Learn about your family history, their travel ideas, and how you could help a new student communicate.

Exploration 1 – Family Interview & Family Tree

Reading– Pick a text to read independently or with a family member for at least 20 minutes per day.

Math – Play one of math games you learned during distance learning.

Journal/Observation Writing – Imagine you have to describe your family to someone who's never met them before. What makes your family unique and different from others? What are your family's most important traditions, values, and stories? What do you most love about them, and what frustrates you the most about them?

Activities – Family Interview & Family Tree: (This exploration could take multiple days).

Learn more about your family by interviewing family members. Once you have learned about previous generations of your family, put that knowledge into a family tree. See Exploration #1 below for the directions.

Exploration 2 – Family Culture Quilt

Reading – Pick a text to read independently or with a family member for at least 20 minutes per day.

Math – Play one of math games you learned during distance learning.

Journal/Observation Writing – Write about a time when your family prepared and shared a special meal together. What foods did you eat? What were you celebrating? Describe the sounds, smells, environment, and overall feeling.

Activities – Family Culture Paper Quilt: A creative craft where you make a paper quilt that represents the cultures unique to you. Read the direction below for the supplies and steps to make your quilt.

Exploration 3 – Family Crest

Reading – Pick a text to read independently or with a family member for at least 20 minutes per day.

Math – Play one of math games you learned during distance learning.

Journal/Observation Writing – **Traditions** can be any combination of stories, beliefs, rituals and customs that your family maintains and passes on from one year to the next (and one generation to another). Describe a family tradition that continues today. What are its origins? What is its significance? Why it is important to your family legacy? Do you carry it on? Why and why not?

Activities – **Family Crest:** Create a family crest to identify your family. Use the directions for Exploration 3 to help you design and make your family crest.

Exploration 4 – Pack Your Bags!

Reading – Pick a text to read independently or with a family member for at least 20 minutes per day.

Math – Play one of math games you learned during distance learning.

Journal/Observation Writing – **Pieces of Home:** Many people—even adults—pack a favorite pillow or stuffed animal for any overnight trip away from home. Using your best adjectives, describe the special item that travels everywhere with you.

Activities – **Pack Your Bags:** Guess what? It's time to plan a trip to a different country. For this trip you must prepare. It's time research and dig into what you will need to be prepared for your trip. Look at Exploration 4 for more directions.

Exploration 5 – A New Student!

Reading – Pick a text to read independently or with a family member for at least 20 minutes per day.

Math – Play one of math games you learned during distance learning.

Journal/Observation Writing – **Say What?** Recall a time when you tried to interact with someone from another country. How would the scene have changed if you could understand and speak their language?

Activities – **A New Student:** Your class is getting a new student! This student is from Argentina and does not speak any English. You have been paired with this student as his buddy to help him get acquainted with this new school setting in a new language. Look at Exploration 5 for more directions.

Exploration 1: Family History

Learning about your family history is very important. Memories, photos and documents provide a wealth of invaluable family history information. Older relatives often share stories with kids. Looking at pictures of family members and knowing how they relate to each other makes the stories easier to comprehend. Interviewing family members is a great way to learn about earlier generations and discover more about your family heritage.

Part 1: Family Interview

To help with your family history research, here are some sample questions to help you get started for your interview.

1. When and where were you born?
2. What were your parents' names? Did you have any siblings?
3. What is your happiest memory of your father? Your mother?
4. What is the most important lesson your parents taught you?
5. Did you or your family ever experience hardships?
6. What are the names of your grandparents?
7. What is your happiest memory of your grandfather? Grandmother?
8. Where did you grow up? Did you ever move when you were a child?
9. What did you do for fun as a child?
10. What were some things you did with your friends when you were growing up?
11. How did you like school? What was your favorite/least favorite subject?
12. What did you want to be when you grew up?
13. What jobs have you had? What was your first job, your favorite job, your least favorite job?
14. How did you meet your spouse?
15. Tell me about the day my mom/dad was born.
16. What would be your advice for a happy life?

Part 2: Make a Family Tree

Once you have interviewed your family, you can put all that great knowledge into a Family Tree.

1. Make an outline of every member you would like included in the family tree. If you have a big family, it might be easier to simply make separate trees for every side of your family.
2. Make an outline on a paper. Based on that outline, draw a pencil line of a tree with branches for every sibling.

3. On those branches, you can make another twig or sub-branch for every child that family has. When the base of the tree is drawn, trace over the tree using a marker.
4. When the branches have been drawn, color in the branches and add some leaves.
5. Arrange the photos over the drawing. Cut photos to fit the drawing.
6. Lastly, stick the photos on the suitable branch. As you're putting the photos discuss how they're related to every person on the tree.
7. When the glue has dried, put label on every family member and it is members using a colored marker.

Exploration 2: Family Quilt

Description

Fun and simple craft project! This Family Quilt allows the family to piece together their uniqueness!

Materials

Craft Supplies:

- 1 Piece Colored Card stock 8 ½" x 11"*
- Permanent marker
- Craft Glue
- Scraps of scrapbook/construction paper- enough to make a 2 ½" square for each ancestor and where they came from, make sure to include YOU!*
- 3/16" hole punch
- 12" piece of ribbon
- Pinking shears/scissors



*You may choose to make your "quilt" pieces larger, which would require a larger card stock.

Instructions

1. Cut out one 2 ½" square of scrapbook/construction paper for each culture unique to you. (Example: if your family has ancestors from Ireland, Spain, France, and America, you would add all of those squares) If you have a small family or/and odd number of family members, you can make some blank squares to place randomly on your "quilt". A "quilt" is 9 squares (3 x 3) which fit nicely on an 8 ½ " x 11" sheet of card stock.
2. With a permanent marker, write one culture on each square.
3. Lay them out on the card stock and when you are happy with their arrangement, glue them in place. Be sure to leave room at both the top and bottom to write.
4. At the top, using the hole punch, make one hole approximately 1 ½ " from each end.

5. In the space at the top of the quilt write: "Last name" Family Quilt and at the bottom write: Woven Together Forever!
6. From the back, poke one end of the ribbon through each hole and make a knot in the end of the ribbon. This will be your hanger.
adapted from: http://www.craftelf.com/Craft_Elf_General%20Crafts_Family%20Quilt.htm#ixzz6NBgUn0W2

Exploration 3: Family Crest

Centuries ago, family crests or coat of arms were used to identify different royal families in countries all over the world. Now, every family, not just royal families, have started to use crests to mark their property and distinguish themselves from others. Using special symbols and colors, crests are still used today by many colleges and universities as well as our armed forces.

Creating a family crest at home can be a fun and meaningful way for family members to identify what makes their family special and unique. Often, a shield is used as the base layer for the other symbols to be placed on, but you can use any shape (circle, triangle, square, etc.) as a foundation. Depending on children's ages, this activity can range from very basic to elaborate. However detailed you choose to make it, this activity promotes teamwork, sharing, and communication, to help draw your family closer together.

How to make a family crest:

Answering some questions can help start the process. These questions can help get you started: What makes your family different from other families? What is your favorite part of being in your family? What makes your family strong? Will the colors you use have meaning? How will you lay out the symbols? What shape will you use as a foundation? What does your family value?

Once you have thought about and discussed some of these questions, you may now start creating your family crest.

You will need:

- a large piece of white heavy card stock paper (from an art or office supply store)
- markers or crayons
- pencils
- pictures (computer or magazine)
- glue sticks
- scissors

First, use a pencil to draw a shield onto the heavy stock paper. If you want to use a different shape you can use a large mixing bowl as a template to create a circle or trace around a picture frame or box to create a square.

Next, discuss ideas for which symbols each family member wants to create. Each member will have the opportunity to choose a different symbol to represent what they think makes their family unique. For example, if there are 5 members in your family, there will be 5 symbols in your crest. Use the rest of the card stock paper to make each family member's symbol.

Finally, color each symbol with markers or crayons, cut out the colored symbols, and glue them down on the shield using a glue stick.

Exploration 4: Go On A Virtual Trip

Pack Your Bags!

Great news! Your family has just been selected to travel to a different country! You will need to prepare for your trip in several ways:

- Decide where you will go! You can all decide to go to the same country, or different family members can choose different countries.
- Do some research on this country. For example, you will want to find out:
 - Where it is
 - What the weather is like
 - What language they speak
 - What are some of the traditional foods they eat

Once you are done researching, pack your suitcase! You can use a real suitcase for the sake of the activity, or you can use a pretend suitcase and draw the items you would pack. Once you are "packed", meet your family in the living room (or any other shared space) to explain what is in your suitcase and why! Or, if your family completes the activity together, record your results and share them on social media!

Your suitcase should include (followed by possible sentence frames for how to share):

- A printed or sketched map of where your country is located on the world map

The country _____ is located here. It is near _____ and _____.

- An example of clothes you would wear in your country to be comfortable in the weather.

The weather is usually _____ in (country) this time of the year. I packed my _____, _____, and _____ because _____.

- A "travel dictionary": Choose 5-15 words or phrases that would be helpful to know when traveling in a different country. Research how to say those words or phrases in that country's language or dialect.

Even if the country you plan to visit speaks English, the dialect may be different than US English and you may need to learn some new terms. Write down the English term/s and their translation so you have a “pocket dictionary” for your travels! Be sure to practice pronouncing them!

_____ in U.S. English means _____ in (language).

- Choose at least one meal you plan to order at a restaurant. Draw a picture, print a photo, find a recipe (and try it?!), and/or write about the dish you would venture to try.

In (country) they eat something called _____. It is made with _____.

- EXTENSION: How far is it from Reno to the capital city of the country you chose? If you get a direct flight that averages 500 miles per hour, how long will it take you to get there?
- EXTENSION: Research specific sights you would like to visit within your country of choice. Prepare an “elevator pitch” (2 minutes of talking about all of its most exciting features) to try to convince your family to visit this sight or point of interest).

Exploration 5: Learn A New Language

A New Student

Your class is getting a new student! This student is from Argentina and does not speak any English. You have been paired with this student as his buddy to help him get acquainted with this new school setting in a new language.

Help your new classmate by doing the following:

- Learn to greet him in Spanish. What are some different greetings that you can say to him each morning?
- Make a map of your school and/or neighborhood.
 - On the map, label each area bilingually so that he knows it in Spanish but can also learn the English equivalent. Use sketches or pictures!
- Create some flashcards for your classmate.
 - Pick 5-15 words you think are important for him to know about your school, neighborhood, or Northern Nevada. Sketch or print a picture of those words and write them in English on index cards.
 - On the other side of the flashcard, research and write the Spanish equivalent.
 - Work on memorizing these words yourself so you and your classmate have something to talk about!
- Learn to say goodbye in Spanish. What are some different ways to say farewell at the end of the day?

OPTION: Choose a language other than Spanish and do the same! Perhaps you would like to choose your new classmate to come from France, thus needing to support their French and English, or perhaps your classmate is from the Philippines and needs support in Tagalog and English! Have fun learning words and phrases in other languages.