

Oconto County 4-H

As you work on your project throughout the year, you may find it helpful to take pictures and keep notes. They can come in handy as you plan for ways to share what you have learned and look back on what you've done.

Suggestions for showcasing your project work:

- Tell about what you've learned at **Speaking Fest**
- Show what you've learned at **Demonstration Fest**
- Take your project to the **Oconto County Fair**
- Enter local contests **outside of 4-H** like essay contests, shows and speech contests
- Look for creative ways to share what you've learned with your **club**, your **school** and your **community**

Stay in Touch!

Here's how you can contact your adult key leader(s) this year:

Youth Leader :

Here's how you can contact your key leader(s) this year:

Written by Paula Huff, University of Wisconsin-Extension

August 2007



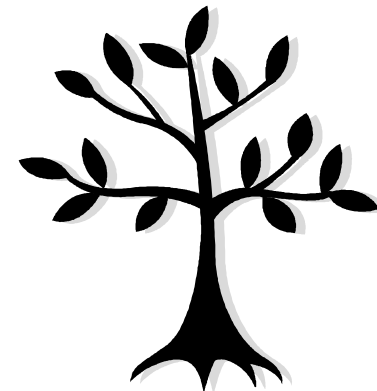
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WELCOME TO THE OCONTO COUNTY 4-H

COMMUNICATION (GENEALOGY FOCUS)

PROJECT!



The 4-H Literature "Voices from the Past" is part of the Communications Project. In it you will find many exciting and fun ways to communicate with others around you, by listening to their stories, and sharing your own!

Listening to people's stories is a big part of genealogy, which is the tracing of your family's history. In this guide, we have activities for every month of the 4-H year to get you started on the path to genealogy.



Have fun!

Beginning of the Year

Here is what I would like to learn this year (my goal) in the Communication/Genealogy project:

During the Project Year

Here are the steps I will take to meet my goal:

During the Project Year

Here's what I learned, and how I felt about my project experience:

Did you enjoy Genealogy?

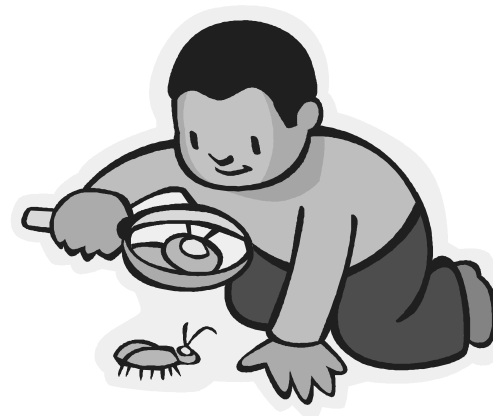
Was this project fun for you? If not, **that's okay**. It isn't likely that you'll like every project. What's important is that you **tried something new** and that you **learned something**.

What did you learn in this project? What could you have done differently? What are you really proud of? These are all good questions to think about when you finish a project.

Thanks for trying out the Communication: Genealogy focus

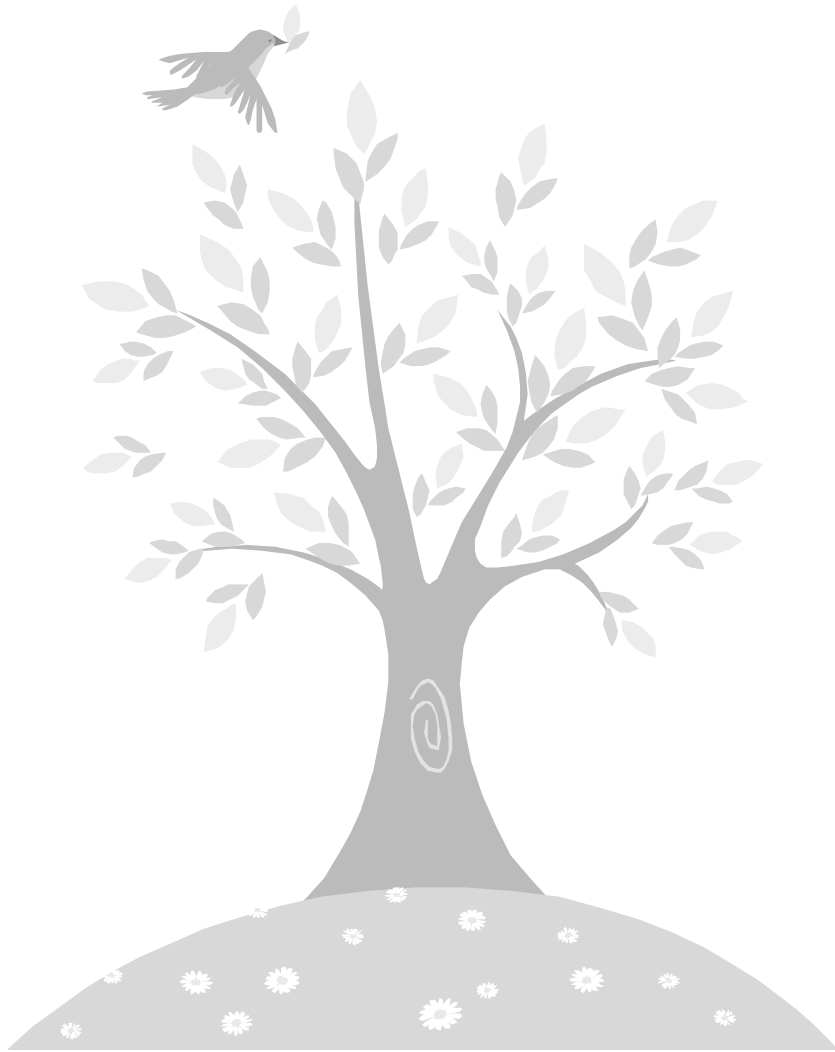
If you liked this project, you should consider signing up for another year! You will get to dig deeper into the project and discover many new and exciting things.

It's never too soon to get started on next year's projects!



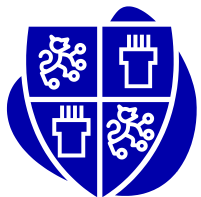
See you in the next project year!

Notes



November

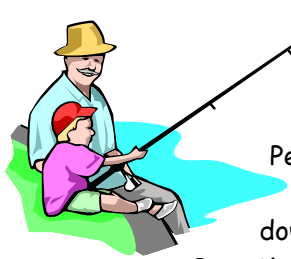
Can you think of ways to communicate other than by speaking?



In the days of old England, knights used to let others know who they were by their coat of arms. The coat of arms was put on their shields and on their castles. It let other people know just who they were. In some places, this coat of arms even came to represent the family name.

What would you put on your coat of arms that would let others know about you? Design your own coat of arms that communicates something about you or your family. Get out a big piece of paper or cardboard and some markers, and start communicating!

December



Do you have stories in your family that are told over and over?

People have been sharing stories in that way for a long time. Not all important stories are written down. Some are remembered and told over and over.

Sometimes the stories are about family. Sometimes they are about events that are happening in the community or the world. These stories are called "oral history".

Think of one of your favorite family stories. Practice telling it and then share it with someone. You might even like to tape record or videotape yourself.

January

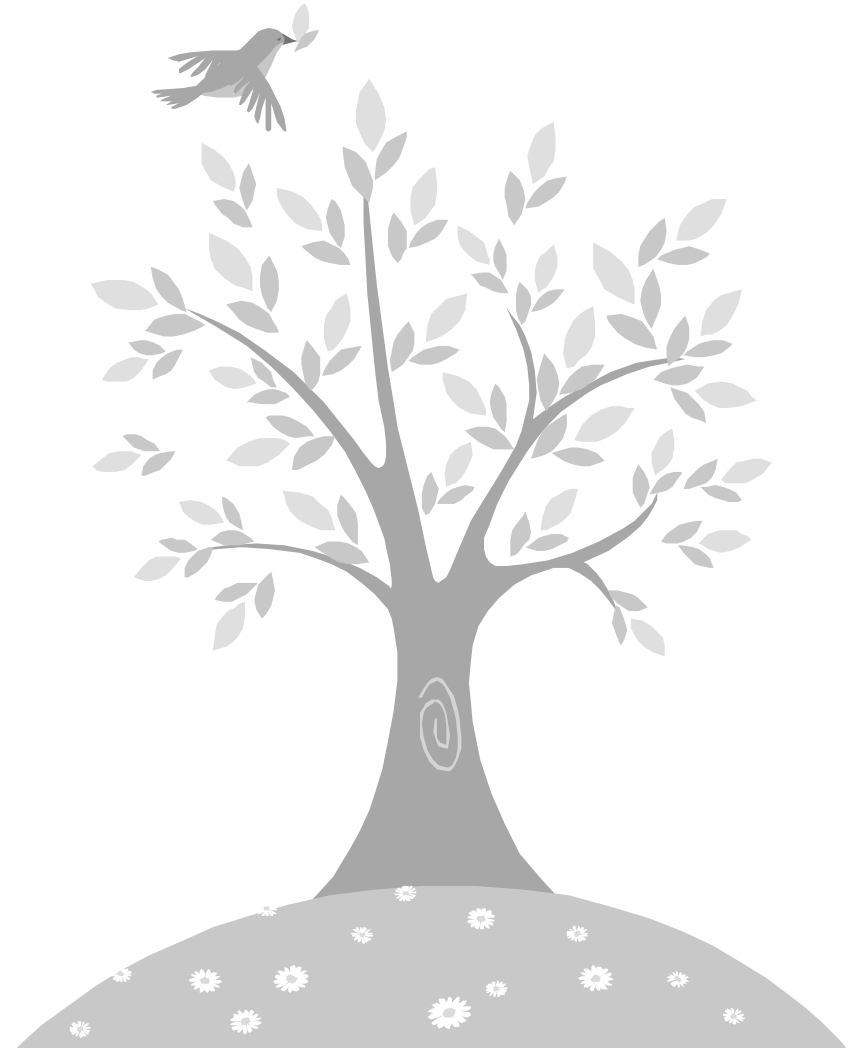
When I was little, my grandma told me how she went to work for the telephone company. She needed to make money so that her little sister could go to school. It was a pretty scary thing for her, because telephones were brand-new. She didn't know what to expect!



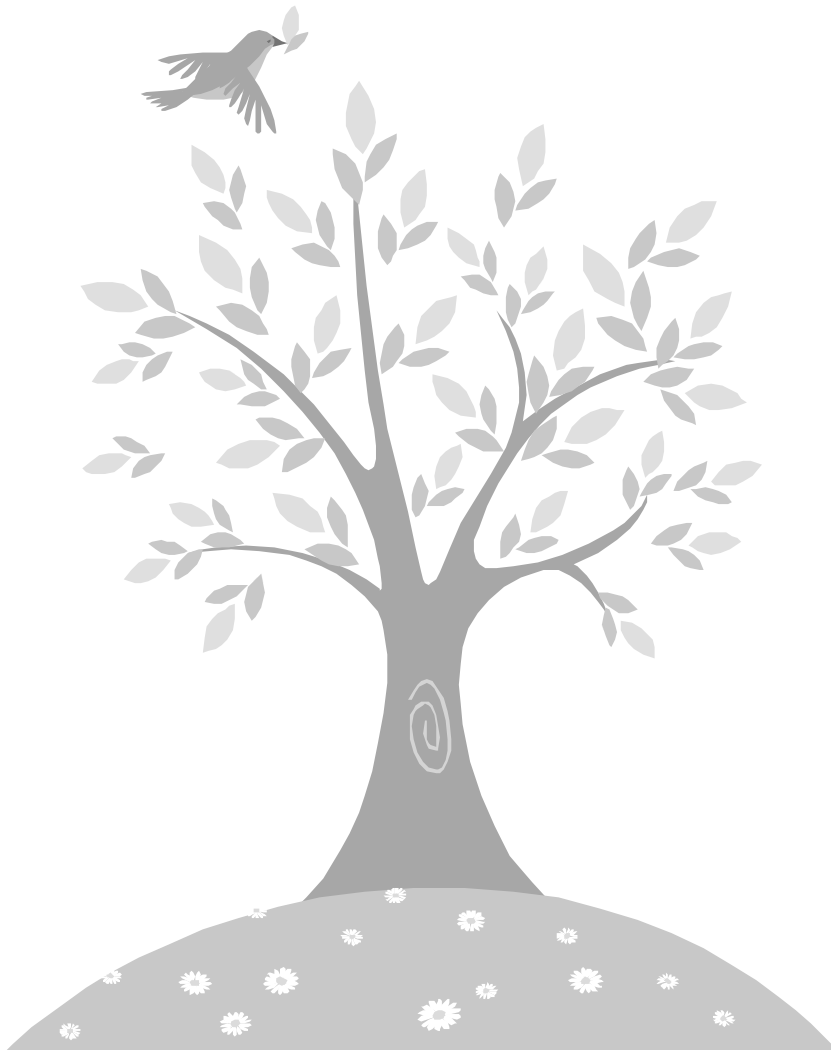
Older people have wonderful things to tell, but sometimes we need to ask the right questions. An important part of communication is asking the right questions. *Voices from the Past* (page 3) has an activity for you to do. It involves interviewing an older person. Look on page 4 for interview questions that keep the conversation going.

This activity will mean even more if you take notes. Use your notes to put your story in written form.

Notes



Notes



February

Genealogy is the study of family history. A person who does genealogy is called a **genealogist**. A genealogist is like a detective. A genealogist looks for clues to the names in a family and the places they lived.

Genealogists find names and places in lots of different ways. One of the tools they use is the census.

A census is a record of people. It contains the names of all the people who were living in one place, at one time. In the United States, the census is taken every ten years. We have census information back to 1790.

There is a free internet site that has the 1880 census. Its address is: www.familysearch.org.

Let's look up someone we know was alive in 1880. Have you heard of the "Little House" books by Laura Ingalls Wilder? Here's how you would find her on the census:

1. Connect to the internet.
2. Type in the web address in the address bar: www.familysearch.org.
3. Type in Laura Ingalls in the space for first and last name. Why didn't we type in "Wilder"?
4. Type 1880 in the "year" blank, and hit search.
5. Look under the 1880 census heading. We have over THIRTY Laura Ingalls! How do we know which one is the Laura we are looking for? It might help if we knew where our Laura was born. If you've read "Little House in the Big Woods", you'll remember that Laura was born in Wisconsin.
6. Look through the Lauras and find **WI** as the birth place. Click on this record and you will find Laura E. Ingalls, daughter of Charles. Is that right?
7. Look at the rest of the family to make sure - click on the "Household" . Are these the right parents?
8. What other things can you learn about the Ingalls from this census record.?

Hint: This site is a good place to look up people that you know were alive in 1880!



March

Old pictures can be a great source of information for genealogists. Do you have any neat old pictures at home? Do you know the stories behind them? If you do, write them down! And don't forget to label your photos with names of the people in them. Writing down the information will help you preserve both those precious family pictures and the stories that go along with them



And if you don't have any old photos of your own — here's one to adopt! Every picture may well tell a story, but I bet that the story would be different for each of us. Look at the photo for a few minutes, and then write down the story that the picture is telling you. Here are some questions to get you started...

- Who are the children?
- Where did they get the tablecloth?
- Who is taking the picture?
- What will they do next?

April

Gather those interviewing skills you learned in January! It's time to begin **YOUR** family tree.

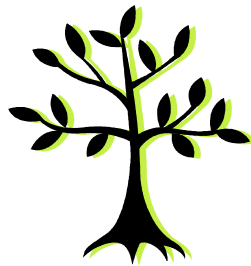
The best place to start is by talking with your mom or dad, and getting information about them. And then you'll want to find out about **THEIR** mom and dad...and so on. Don't forget to get as much information as you can including:

Date of birth

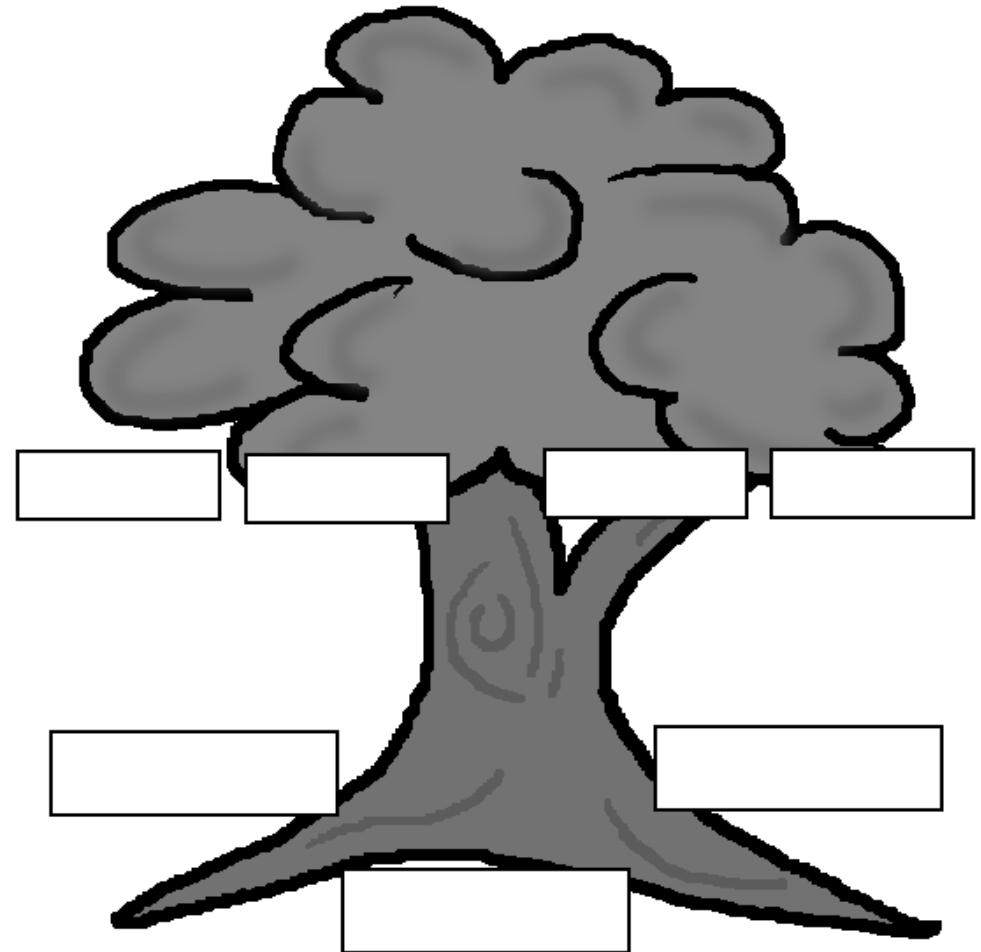
City and State of birth

You can keep the information in lots of different ways. It's fun to put it in a "tree". You'll find different "trees" on this internet site: <http://www.misbach.org/pdfcharts/>

You may want to start with the one called "**Just for Kids**". There is also one located near the end of this booklet!



MY FAMILY TREE



Hint: In filling out a family tree, put yourself in the lowest box on the tree. Your dad goes above you to the left, your mom to the right. Dad's dad goes above him to the left, his mom to the right. Same thing for your mom's mom.



What countries did your ancestors come from?
Can you find them on this map?

My ancestors came from:

Map from: www.worldatlas.com/clipart.htm

May

It's nearly summer! May is such a great month to spend outside - and what better place for a genealogist than in a **cemetery**! If you are really interested in Genealogy, you will soon appreciate all that cemeteries have to offer. For one thing, it's a place you can find those all-important names.

Even if you aren't searching for your relatives, you may find that the messages on the tombstones - especially the older ones—are very interesting. Some may be funny, and some may be sad.

Here's a great activity to bring home names or messages from tombstones. It's called "**Tombstone Rubbing**". All you need are these three things:

- A large piece of paper - newsprint or butcher paper works great
- Crayons (no paper on them)
- Masking tape
- Soft brush (optional)

First, choose the stone that you want to "rub". Use a soft brush to clean away any surface dirt or moss. Never use anything rough to clean the stone or you may harm it.

Next tape the paper carefully over the part of the stone that you want to "rub".

Now take your crayon and start rubbing. Hold the paper near the spot that you are rubbing. Rubbing harder will make the letters appear more clearly (they will be white and the area around them will be the color of your crayon). Rub all around the area. Remove the tape and your rubbing!

What did you think?

What messages did you read on the old tombstones?

What did the messages communicate to you?

Have messages on tombstones changed over the years?



June



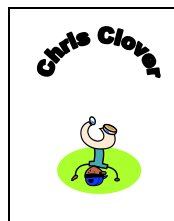
It's time to start thinking about **YOU**. After all, you are the one who is doing all this genealogy! What sort of things would you like people to know about you? Be thinking of that....while you are putting together an "**Accordion Book**".

Here's how to make your book:

Take a **piece of paper** and fold it the long way. Cut along the folded line.

Take one of the strips of paper and fold it in half, the short way. Now take one of the open ends and bend it back toward the folded edge. Turn the paper over and do this on the other side, too. Repeat with the second strip of paper. Stand your paper strips next to each other. Do they look like an accordion? The last step in making your accordion book is to **tape** them together. The taped fold will be the back side of your book. You'll be filling up the **front side** of the book.

You might want to start with your name on the front cover, something like this --->



On each page, put something about yourself. You can communicate in any way you'd like - pictures, words, or symbols. When you are done, stand your book up and let others enjoy **YOU**.

July

In old times, many people followed naming traditions. Here is one common pattern:

First son named for father's father

Second son named for mother's father

Third son named for father

First daughter named for mother's mother

Second daughter named for father's mother

Third daughter named for mother

What's the story with **YOUR** name? Ask around, and see what you find. Then write down the story of your naming.

But what if there isn't a good story? You can make one up! It's called **creative writing**! Just make sure that everyone knows that it is fiction.

August

Over the years, many people left their homeland and moved to the United States. People who come to a new country to live are called **immigrants**.

Years ago when people immigrated, they packed up everything they owned and put it in a trunk to take with them.



What sort of things do you think they brought with them to their new country? How do you suppose they made the decision about what to take and what to leave behind?

What sort of things would you take with you if you were moving to a new land? Make a list of things that you would take with you on a move to a new land. Remember, you only can take **ONE** trunk.



HINT: If your ancestors immigrated to the United States between the years of 1892 and 1954, you can check the records of Ellis Island to see if their records are there. The Ellis Island website is at <http://www.ellislandrecords.org/>

Further reading: Immigrant Kids by Russell Freedman, Puffin Books, 1980 ISBN 0-14-037594-5