



Genealogy Badge

(Requirement ideas courtesy of Amelia Miles and Genealogy4kids)

If you do a requirement at a lower level, choose new ones as you advance.

Otter: Do 4 requirements including the 2 starred

_____ 1. * With your parent's help, create a simple family tree. Include as many ancestors as you can. You can simply write it on a piece of paper or get creative and create a poster in the shape of a tree, create a hanging mobile, or use photographs to create a scrapbook version.

_____ 2.* Find out what your name means and why your parents chose it.

_____ 3. Have one of your grandparents teach you how to prepare a favorite food from their childhood. If they are not available, have a parent teach you to prepare a favorite food from their childhood.

_____ 4. Learn about a popular game or sport that your parents or grandparents played when they were young. If possible, get some friends together and play the game.

_____ 5. Ask your parents and grandparents if they own any family heirlooms. Ask them to show them to you and explain the history behind them.

_____ 6. Look at photograph albums with an older relative. Have them identify the people in the photos. If the identities are not marked on the photos, carefully write the name on the back with a soft lead pencil or archival quality pen.

_____ 7. Visit a historic home in your area. Ask the guide questions about how someone your age would have lived during the time the home was first lived in.

_____ 8. Go to the library and check out some family history 'how to' books suitable to your age level. Ask the librarian for help if necessary.

_____ 9. Ask your parents and grandparents if they own any family heirlooms. Ask them to show them to you and explain the history behind them. Use this handy form to make a list of family heirlooms.

_____ 10. Learn a song or dance from a country your ancestors came from.

Dolphin: Do 5 requirements including the 2 starred

_____ 1.* Do Otter requirements 1 & 2

_____ 2.* A **family group record (FGR)**, sometimes called a family group sheet, is a form used to list the vital information for one set of parents and all of their children. Obtain a family group record and fill it out to best of your knowledge for your immediate family. Ask your parents to help you fill in the rest.

_____ 3. Visit a genealogical research facility. Call your public library or use an Internet search engine to find facilities near your home. . Look up your family name and see if you can find ancestors you didn't know about.

_____ 4. Visit a historic home in your area. Ask the guide questions about how someone your age would have lived during the time the home was first lived in.

- _____ 5. Go to the library and check out some family history 'how to' books suitable to your age level. Ask the librarian for help if necessary.
- _____ 6. On a map of the world or your country, place a sticker on each city or area in which your ancestors lived.
- _____ 7. Visit a cemetery. With adult supervision, make crayon or pencil rubbings of inscriptions on the stones.
- _____ 8. Write to a relative and ask them to tell you a story about themselves.
- _____ 9. Make a family calendar of all the birthdays and wedding anniversaries for everyone in the family. Make copies and share them with your relatives. Make an online calendar at www.calendars.net
- _____ 10. Ask your parents and grandparents if they own any family heirlooms. Ask them to show them to you and explain the history behind them.
- _____ 11. Have one of your grandparents teach you how to prepare a favorite food from their childhood. If they are not available, have a parent teach you to prepare a favorite food from their childhood.
- _____ 12. Look at photograph albums with an older relative. Have them identify the people in the photos. Many times the identities of the people are lost over the years and future generations will have no way of knowing who the people in the photos are. If the identities are not marked on the photos, carefully write the name on the back with a soft lead pencil or archival quality pen.
- _____ 13. Several hundred years ago people did not have surnames (last names). Learn about the history of surnames - where they came from and what they meant. (Surnames usually indicate a place, profession or a physical attribute.) Match the following surnames to the list of their meanings. What does your surname mean? Try inventing a new surname.

Surnames: Peters, Cliff, Smith, Armstrong, Fitzgerald, Ashley, Kirkpatrick, O'Reilly, McDonald, Johnson, Baker, Cooper, Wagner

Meanings: son of John, Lives near a cliff, son of Donald, has strong arms, son of Gerald, is a wagon maker, is a blacksmith, son of Peter, is a barrel maker, lives near a grove of ash trees, grandson of Reilly, attends the church of St. Patrick, is a baker

Butterfly: Do 6 requirements including the 2 starred

- _____ 1.* Do Dolphin requirements 1 & 2.
- _____ 2.* A **pedigree**, or ancestral chart, is a form that lists an individual and several generations of his direct-line ancestors (parents and grandparents). Obtain a pedigree chart and fill it out to the best of your knowledge. Ask your parents and grandparents to help you fill it out further.
- _____ 3. Learn about terms used in family history research including:
- Ancestor, ancestry, ancestral, banns, biography, biographer, canon law, census record, baptism, christening, clan, descendent, cousin, first cousin, second cousin, first cousin once removed, emigration, genealogy, indenture, illegitimate, lineage, maiden name, progeny.

Create a word search or crossword puzzle game. Try www.puzzlemaker.com to make your puzzles.

____ 4. Visit a genealogical research facility. Call your public library or use an Internet search engine to find facilities near your home. Look up your family name and see if you can find ancestors you didn't know about.

____ 5. On a map of the world or your country, place a sticker on each city or area in which your ancestors lived.

____ 6. Learn about heraldry. Design and create a personal or family Coat of Arms.

____ 7. Write to a relative and ask them to tell you a story about themselves.

____ 8. Make a family calendar of all the birthdays and wedding anniversaries for everyone in the family. Make copies and share them with your relatives. Make an online calendar at www.calendars.net

____ 9. Ask your parents and grandparents if they own any family heirlooms. Ask them to show them to you and explain the history behind them.

____ 10. Ask older relatives to tell about themselves. Use a tape, video or digital voice recorder to record what they have to say.

____ 11. Have one of your grandparents teach you how to prepare a favorite food from their childhood. If they are not available, have a parent teach you to prepare a favorite food from their childhood.

____ 12. Learn about your ancestor's native language. Get a dictionary for that language from the library and try to learn some words and phrases.

____ 13. Several hundred years ago people did not have surnames (last names). Learn about the history of surnames - where they came from and what they meant. (Surnames usually indicate a place, profession or a physical attribute.) Match the following surnames to the list of their meanings. What does your surname mean? Try inventing a new surname.

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Eagle: Do 7 requirements including the 2 starred

____ 1.* Do Butterfly requirements 1 & 2.

____ 2.* Learn about terms used in family history research including:

Ancestor, ancestry, ancestral, banns, biography, biographer, canon law, census record, baptism, christening, clan, descendent, cousin, first cousin, second cousin, first cousin once removed, emigration, genealogy, indenture, illegitimate, lineage, maiden name, progeny

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_____ 10. Physical traits can be passed down through generations. Pick a trait that you have: eye color, freckles, hair color, hitchhiker's thumb, good singing voice, long fingers, etc. Map out several generations of your family on pedigree and family group records. Note on the chart which relatives also share your physical trait.

_____ 11. With the help of your parents, gather and look at original birth, marriage, and death documents you might have around your house. Keep them all together and store them in a safe place.

_____ 12. A census is an official government count or list of all individuals that lived in a certain location at a certain time. A census can contain information such as name, age, gender, race, address, employment, place of birth, parent's place of birth, education, etc. Learn about census records. Prepare a mock census entry for your family.

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More ideas for this badge can be found at

<http://www.geocities.com/genealogy4kids/genealogy4kids.html>