

## Discovering Family History

Help kids play detective to uncover stories through the generations. BY ISABELLE WATTENBERG

**F**amily history is shared in many ways, from celebrating holiday traditions, to photographs set on the mantle, to heirlooms passed down through generations. Oral histories also keep heritage alive, with parents and grandparents providing the characters and real events driving the plot. And since each storyteller's unique perspective informs the narrative, listeners don't just learn about their family heritage, they discover how the history has shaped their family members into the people they are today.



→ To see Family Matters pages from previous issues, go to [sonsofnorway.com](http://sonsofnorway.com), log in and select "Cultural Programming" then "Family Matters."

## Activities for Young People



### PRESCHOOL

Sit down with your child or grandchild and tell them a vivid story about your childhood, such as a short story about a family pet or hobby. Be very descriptive. Together, draw the items from the story.

**Expand It:** Go on a genealogical treasure hunt! Head to grandma and grandpa's attic or basement to look for family memorabilia, such as scrapbooks, old pieces of clothing and jewelry.

### ELEMENTARY AGES

Make picture magnets! Find old family photographs and talk to your child or grandchild about each person. Make copies of the photos for your child to cut. Place a magnet on the back of each photo and build a pictorial family tree on your refrigerator.

**Expand It:** Play family history bingo. Fill your card with family photos, nicknames and stories. See link below.

### TEENAGERS

The 'Where in the World' Family History game incorporates geography. Gather information about where your ancestors immigrated from, states where family members were born and other geographic details. Print out a world map and mark the locations. Learn more at [littlelidsideas.net](http://littlelidsideas.net).

**Expand It:** Using a large poster board, create a Jeopardy game based on your family history to play at your next gathering.



← **Check out**  
 Viking's Oral History  
 article in the  
 Nov. 2012 issue.

## Resources

### Crafts

[kids.familytreemagazine.com/kids](http://kids.familytreemagazine.com/kids)

### Oral History Interview Kit

[shopfamilytree.com/instant-oral-history-interview-kit](http://shopfamilytree.com/instant-oral-history-interview-kit)

### Book

"How to Write Your Personal or Family History," by Katie Funk Wiebe

### Family History Bingo

[allisonkimball.com](http://allisonkimball.com)  
 Search "Bingo"