

Family Activity Pack



MARCH: FAMILY TREE

The American Library Association named Lester Public Library one of 15 libraries in the country to host a museum-quality exhibition examining human migration.

World on the Move: 250,00 Years of Human Migration was developed by the American Anthropological Association, together with the Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, and Smithsonian Exhibits. It is administered by the ALA's Public Programs Office.

The exhibit encompasses stories, images, and objects that will help people appreciate migration histories—their own and others—and emphasizes how migration is a shared human experience that connects us all.

The exhibit is here at the library March 20-April 23. Many events and activities are planned during its month-long run, including a very special community art project: What does **home** mean to you? We invite every member of your family to think of *one word* and to come into the library and print that word with provided supplies. It will become part of a giant collage with everyone else's words. We can't wait to see what you come up with!

Since the exhibit is about where we all come from, this pack is about sharing family stories, investigating family history and working on a family tree with your

child. Families are all different, so be creative about your unique situation! When you build the family tree, keep it fun! It doesn't have to be a historically accurate and linear work of perfection. Encourage your kids to take the lead. They may just want to include photos of immediate family members on their tree, along with pets, of course! Let them add friends and "chosen" family if they want. The project is simply to get them thinking about where they come from.

Why is it important for children to think about family history? A 2010 Emory University study found that family stories provide children with a sense of identity through time, and help children understand who they are in the world.

We found the following information at supersimple.com, and love their take on the way building a family tree with your children can create a sense of connection:

- Children often can't see past themselves and the little world that revolves around their day-to-day lives. This is natural. By creating a family tree it can help them see where they fit in the world, where they come from and their roots. They will learn about people they may not have realized existed.

Sources:

- supersimple.com/article/the-family-tree-tips-reasons-to-make-your-own/

**LESTER
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- They may learn they have similar personalities and characteristics with some of their relatives (something you may have seen already).
- They learn who they are, where they have come from and their connection to the world. Have their relatives immigrated from somewhere else in the world? Where? Show them—pull the map out! Is this the reason some of us call our grandparents different names than our friends (Abuela, Gigi, Opa)?
- It makes history interesting...Children need history to be hands on...Family trees do just this. It will involve them asking questions, talking to relatives, asking about things in their childhood. Don't just stop at the basics, get them delving deeper.
- Conversations with their relatives give way to family bonding.

Building your family tree

Supplies: family tree blueprint (suggested), large brown paper with bare tree, paper leaves and paper frames. Also needed: photos, markers or colored pencils, scissors and a pencil.

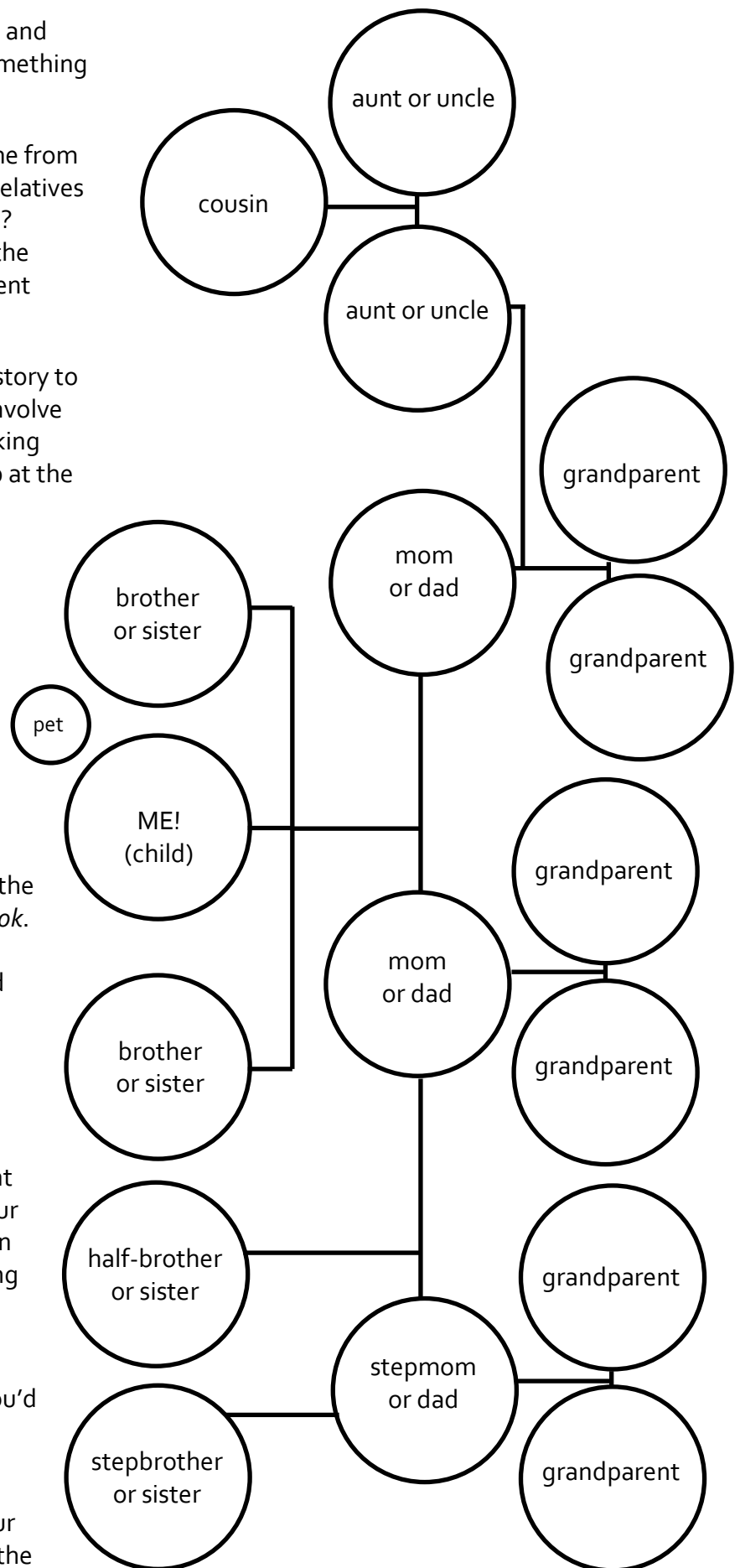
To help get your research started, we've included the book *My Family and Me: A Family History Fill-in Book*. It's chock-full of games, interview questions, and wonderful ideas to help bring family members and their stories together.

Creating a blueprint

Every family is unique. Your family tree may only have a few branches or it may sprout in all different directions. There is not one right way to create your tree. Before you work on the larger tree included in your pack, we suggest creating a blueprint detailing who you are going to include. The diagram on the right is one example of how it might look.

Keep adding circles—as far out or as far back as you'd like. Things can get pretty complicated fast so use the blueprint to keep organized!

When you're ready, use your blueprint to build your tree. Replace circles with leaves, add photos with the frames, draw pictures—be creative!



Have you caught the genealogy bug? Ask us how to conduct further research!

Family Tree Blueprint

