

# Learn **GENEOLOGY** by **Building a Family Tree**

*A History from Home* Weekend Activity provided by  
the Syracuse Regional Museum

The most important part of history is learning about those who came before us. For many folks, this leads to questions about their own family history and getting to know the stories of their ancestors - this practice is called *genealogy*.

Genealogy is the study and tracing of family lines. Your parents each have their own set of parents (your grandparents), and each grandparent has their own set of parents, too (who are your great-grandparents) ...the list goes on and on. It can be quite a challenge to gather information on your family -but there are plenty of tools and resources available, including museums, which can sometimes aid in your search.

It can be a lot of fun to learn about your ancestors by piecing together your genealogy. The first step is to build a family tree with the information you and other family members already know. We have included a simple template - but everyone's tree will look different. You can add aunts and uncles, cousins, siblings, stepfamily members, and so on - whatever represents your family, however that looks! We also encourage you to get creative - for example, you could draw the people named or color in your tree!

Once you fill in the names that you know, ask your family if they can help fill in any additional branches by sharing their own family stories. We hope you have fun building your family tree and learning about your genealogy!

