

Family Heirloom Scavenger Hunt

At a Glance

Students will look around the house for objects that are family history related and record the history of each item

Objectives

- Students will discover the importance of family heirlooms
- Students will preserve the stories of objects that are family history related

Basic Overview

- Grade level: 3-6
- Time: 45 minutes

What You Need to Know

Family heirlooms are items that are passed down from generation to generation. They can include photographs, cookbooks, clothes, toys, and jewelry. There is a story behind each one that is worth preserving.

Newer objects can also have historical and sentimental value. A recent photograph, knickknack, or souvenir can remind you of loved ones and special occasions. These objects can become heirlooms for future generations.

The youngest members of a family may not know the value of these objects. This activity allows students to learn the history and preserve the stories of family heirlooms and objects with sentimental value. Whether on display or kept in a box, every item has a story worth sharing.

Vocabulary

- Family heirloom: an object that has belonged to a family for several generations
- Sentimental value: the value of an object because of personal or emotional reasons

Materials

- Notebook paper
- Pencil
- Printer (optional)
- Laundry basket or large box (optional)

Family Heirloom Scavenger Hunt

Activity

1. Print the *Family Heirloom Research Log* below. If a printer isn't available, students can recreate it on notebook paper.
2. Tell the student that their job is to find 5 objects around their home that are related to their family's or personal history. They are looking for objects that have some sort of sentimental or historical value.
3. They can use the *Family Heirloom Checklist* below to help them identify objects. Objects may be sitting on shelves, hanging on walls, or buried in a closet. They may be new or old, familiar or unfamiliar, packed away, or easy to find.
4. Students can gather the objects in a laundry basket or large box of any kind, or they can leave the objects where they are. Parental discretion may be advised if there are things students can't touch and places they can't look.
5. When they have identified and gathered 5 items, students will complete their *Heirloom Research Log*. They may need to ask other family members for help learning the history of each object.
6. Students should consider the following questions:
Where is the object from? When did you get it? Did it belong to any ancestors? What emotions are associated with it? Why is it important to keep this object and to preserve the stories behind it?

Expert Tip!

Students should ask an adult before handling any object that may be old, fragile, or expensive.

Expert Tip!

Students should seek out objects that are a mystery to them.



Family Heirloom Checklist

Directions:

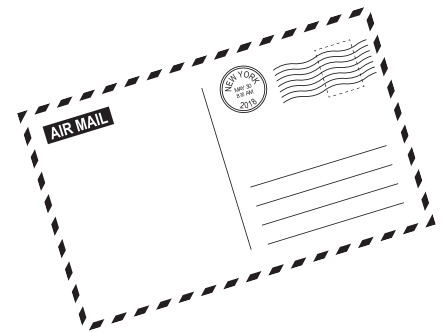
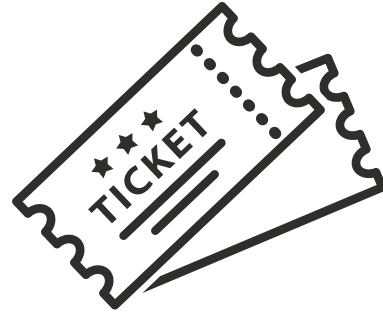
Find 5 objects around the house that you think are family history related. Use this checklist to help you.

Photographs

- Framed photographs on walls or on shelves
- Photograph albums or scrapbooks

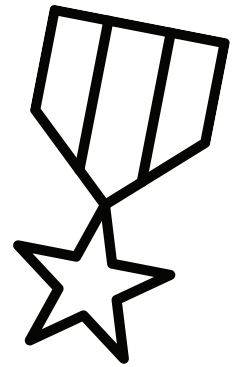
Souvenirs from a Vacation or Trip

- Coffee cup
- Vacation T-shirt
- Refrigerator magnet
- Knickknacks
- Ticket stubs
- Key chain
- Postcards



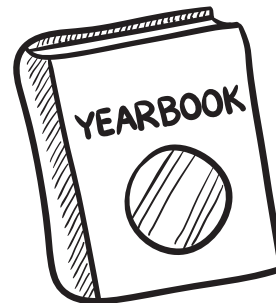
Family Trees and Documents

- Birth certificates
- Marriage licenses
- Military records
- Old letters or diaries
- Family tree charts
- Newspaper clippings
- Passports



Other Family Related Objects

- Yearbooks
- Trophies
- Medals
- Religious items (such as a family Bible)
- Clothes (wedding dress, uniforms, baby clothes, etc.)
- Cookbooks
- Old toys
- Items in drawers and shoeboxes
- Jewelry/trinkets
- Artwork



Family Heirloom Research Log

Directions: Write a brief description of each object and explain why it is important to your family.

Object Description	Why is this object important to my family?

