

Musical Family Tree - Grades 5 & Up



How It Works:

Kids can trace their musical roots with the musical history activity.

Have your student(s) ask their parents who their oldest relatives are. Ask if they can visit, write, or e-mail them to ask about the family's musical history. Did grandma play the piano? Did Great-Great-Aunt Minnie buy an organ from a traveling salesman in a covered wagon on the plains?

Who were the family singers, and who couldn't carry a tune? If your family emigrated to the United States, do your relatives know or remember songs from the "old country"? If they do, be sure to have the relatives sing them so you can record them!

Be sure the student takes notes while they talk to these people. Using the notes and the recordings, the student can create a video or audio diary to send out to relatives and family friends.

What You'll Need:

iPhone or tablet or another way to record interviews

Paper & pen or pencil to take notes