Kids in Trees

Getting children interested in Genealogy & Local History

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“The bottom line: if you want a happier family, create, refine and retell the story of your family’s positive moments and your ability to bounce back from the difficult ones. That act alone may increase the odds that your family will thrive for many generations to come.” – Bruce Feiler (author of The Secrets of Happy Families)
Why?

• 1. It provides kids with a connection
• 2. It helps pass on a sense of history
• 3. It gives them a context in which to understand the world
• 4. It's an intergenerational bonding activity
• 5. It produces future researchers and record keepers

-Maureen Taylor
http://www.familyhistorykids.com/why_genealogy_is_important_for_children.htm
Part I – Events

• Period movie?
• Sock Hop?
• Car? Clothes? Hairdos?
• Games?

Cruisin’ the Strip
OR...
Re-creating Grandma & Grandpas first date
Plant a “Family Tree”
• “Around Town” Scavenger Hunt (adult led tour)
  Pictures and places

• Cemetery scavenger hunt
  Art, history and local heroes
ELLIS ISLAND DAY:
THE IMMIGRATION EXPERIENCE
Hula Hoop
Jumping rope
Hopscotch, Spud, marbles,
Hand Clap games
Kick the Can, Red light Green light
Simon Says…

got game?

Stage a tournament/Olympics using old physical games
Create a wall sized timeline of events in your town – insert kids & ancestors
Personal Timeline: Charting my own history

- Birth
- School
- Sports
- Pets
- Accomplishments
- Memorable events
- Physical attributes
- Happy & sad events

I was born on October 18, 1988 at Daniel Freeman Hospital in Inglewood, CA.

1990: I learned to swim in my aunt’s pool.
1991: My baby sister was born.
1994: I rode my bike without training wheels.
1995: Our house caught on fire.
1997: I was pitcher for my Little League team.
Really nice website supporting this activity:

www.thinkgenealogy.com/2010/01/26/scouting-for-your-scouting-ancestors/
MapQuest
My History
"what's important is the story. because when we're all dust and teeth and kicked-up bits of skin -- when we're dancing with our skeletons -- our words might be all that's left of us."
Alexandra Fuller.
Tell Me My Story:
Giving children a sense of their history

Beech Mountain storyteller Ray Hicks

Storytelling as a way of teaching children about local history
Story Discs*

*from “Show Me a Story,” by Emily K Neuberger
Shorpy
Local historical society databases
State digital collections
Fold3
Google Images
The tank repair shop at Fort Knox, Ky., comes under the scrutiny of President Roosevelt during his second American war plant tour. Seated with him was Gov. Keen Johnson of Kentucky. In the front seat were L-R: Brig. Gen. Joseph A. Holly, and Lt. Gen. Jacob L. Devers.

Picture of FDR from Fort Knox, KY, date 1943.
Sing Me Home: Experiencing history through music

- Sing and record traditional songs
- Make up a new song
- Listen to old recordings
Part IV – Oral History

Oral History: How to Interview
Part V – Using Technology

Technology and the tech-driven child
The Electronic Me: Making a Family Website
Future Me
Reference participation: Not just for programmers!
It provides kids with a connection!

- It helps pass on a sense of history!
- It gives them a context in which to understand the world!

I Can Relate to That!

- It's a fun intergenerational bonding activity!
- It produces future researchers and record keepers!
Memories and Trinkets

Create storage for your important documents and heirlooms
Family Documents as Decor

Birth Certificate

This Certifies That

(name)

was born to

(Mother) and (Father)

on (Date) at (Time)

(weight) (length) (length)

at (Location)

In (City) (State)

(Signed) (Signed)
Family Tree Placemat Craft

Preprinted silhouettes, stick figures, etc. representing males and females. Pink and blue if desired.

11 x 14 paper

Gel pen to draw lines/label figures

Laminator

White glue
Family tree crafts
TIME CAPSULE

Created by: ____________________
Contents sealed on: ____________

Important Things about Me in the Year 2012

* Three of my favorite foods are ________________
* My favorite things to play with are ____________
* Some of my very good friends are ______________
* If I have some free time, I like to ______________
* One of the best places I went to in 2012 was __________
* This year, I learned how to: __________________
* Some of my favorite books are: _________________
* On TV, I really like to watch: _________________
* Something that makes me really happy is: ________
* In 2013, I really want to: ___________________
MAKE A FAMILY CREST