

# **PRESERVING THE PAST CURATE YOUR FAMILY'S HISTORY START A FAMILY HISTORY TRUNK**

History/ Social Studies/ English Language Arts/ Art

Grades: 3-5

## ***Skills:***

- Drawing/Making Art
- Recording History
- Listening
- Organizing

## ***Materials:***

A box (shoe box, wooden box,  
plastic bin that can be clean and dry)  
Pencil, pen and colored pencils or markers  
Tape/ Glue  
Printer (if you need to print the worksheets)  
3 family photos  
3 family recipes  
3 family memories  
(ticket stub, newspaper clipping, etc.)

## ***Standards for Teaching / Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills:***

Grade 3:

113.14 Social Studies

110.14 English Language Arts and Reading

117.111 Art

Grade 4:

113.15 Social Studies

110.15 English Language Arts and Reading

Grade 5:

113.16 Social Studies

110.16 English Language Arts and Reading

## ***Summary:***

Making a family history trunk is a way to begin to organize and preserve your family history. You can collect items like photos or letters, record where they came from, and become the "curator" for the family's history. You can even collect oral histories of a family member telling stories of their past and include those on a flash drive.

***Instructions:***

Using the associated website and the Unit on Preserving the Past, become acquainted with how museums preserve history as well as how you can become the “curator” of your own family’s history.

In this lesson, you will have the opportunity to conduct research and gather resources that can become the start of your family’s “collection” of its history. You may do all or just a part of the lesson depending on what your instructor asks of you.

***Essential Questions:***

Can you imagine what life was like in Laredo 20 years ago? How about 50?  
What about 180+ when the Republic of the Rio Grande existed in 1840?

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# MAKE A FAMILY HISTORY TRUNK

**Find a box —or a “history trunk”—  
to store your family’s history in.**

It can be as big or small as needed.  
A simple plastic bin or even a shoebox  
can do the trick to get you started.

It is best if it is made of a material that will  
keep the items inside of it in the dark.



**Question: Why do you want to preserve your items in the dark?**



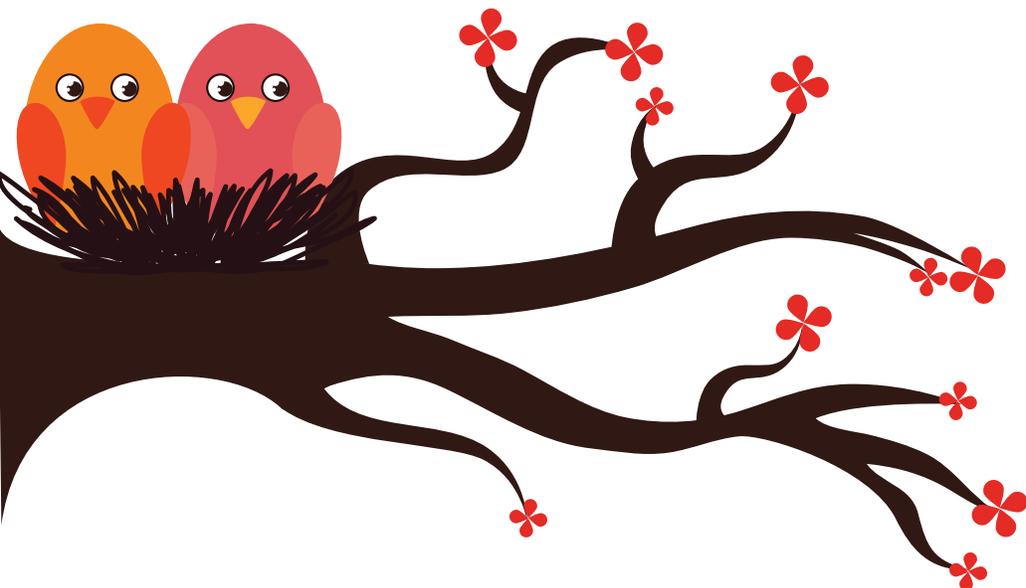
**Make a Label for it!**

Using colored pencils or markers, decorate the label below. Cut it out. Glue it on!

*History Trunk*  
**PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**FAMILY**  
**STARTED ON** \_\_\_\_\_ **COMPLETED ON** \_\_\_\_\_

**Decorate it with a Family Tree**

Use one of the two family trees included here to sit with a family member and record who is who. That way, when you gather items for your box with labels that represent who they belong to, you will be able to follow along.



# My Family Tree

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Great-Grandparents

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Grandma

Grandpa

Grandma

Grandpa

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Dad

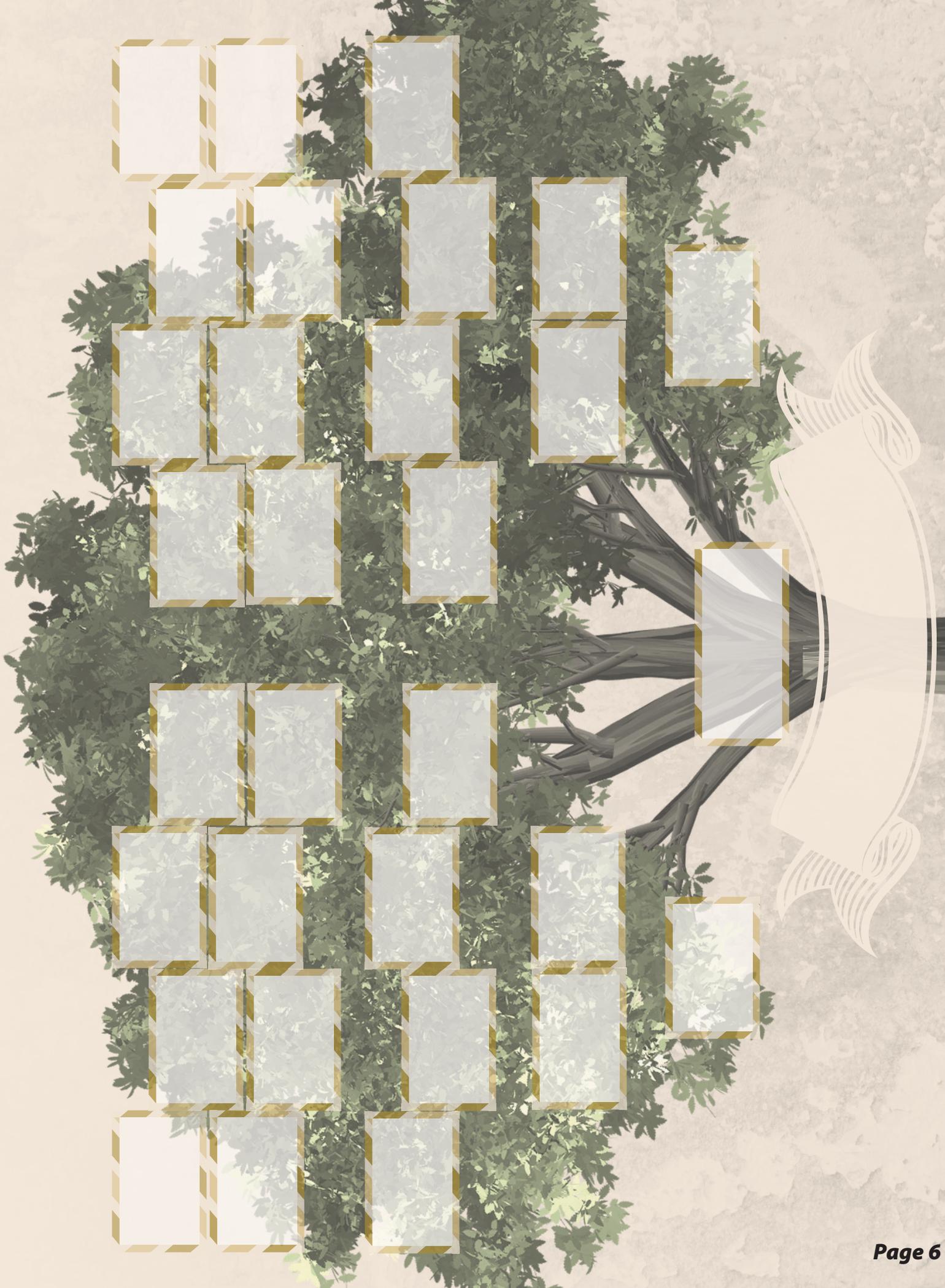


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Mom

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Me



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# PRESERVING YOUR FAMILY RECIPES

Start by gathering at least three family recipes. Maybe these are your favorite meals served at a family holiday, or they could be a favorite of another family member. Often, family recipes represent a bit of our heritage and therefore, sometimes part of our past.

Use a pencil and copy the recipes you gather onto the recipe cards that you can print, or your teacher can give you, that is part of this activity.

Talk to your family about each recipe. Complete the following and save it, along with the recipes in your history trunk.

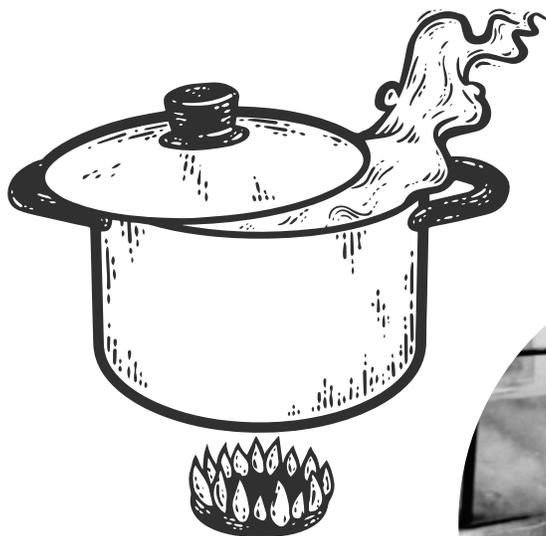
RECIPE: \_\_\_\_\_  
BY CHEF \_\_\_\_\_

INGREDIENTS \_\_\_\_\_  
INSTRUCTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

RECIPE: \_\_\_\_\_  
BY CHEF \_\_\_\_\_

INGREDIENTS \_\_\_\_\_  
INSTRUCTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

[BunnysGarden.com](http://BunnysGarden.com)



**Name of the recipe**

**Who likes to make this meal?**

**How it it a part of your family's history or heritage?**

**Is there a story that goes with the meal or recipe that you want to remember?**

**RECIPE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BY CHEF:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ingredients**

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**Instructions**

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**Name of the recipe**

**Who likes to make this meal?**

**How it it a part of your family's history or heritage?**

**Is there a story that goes with the meal or recipe that you want to remember?**

**RECIPE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BY CHEF:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ingredients**

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**Instructions**

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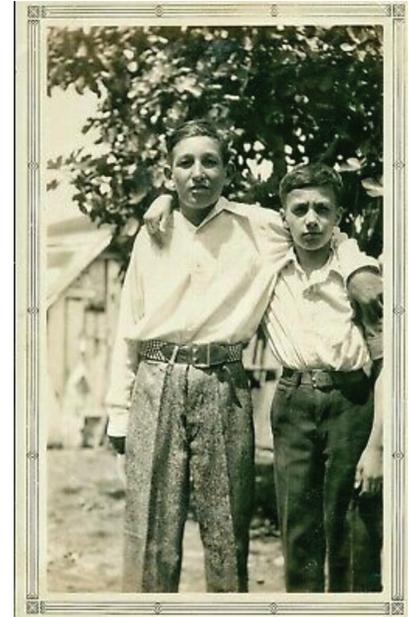
**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# PRESERVING YOUR FAMILY PHOTOS

Start by gathering at least three family photos. Then, plan to sit with a family member and talk about what each photo represents.

Print this worksheet three times to record what they tell you for each photo when you sit with them.

Use a pencil, on the backside of each photo, gently record a name/ label for each photo that you use to interview a family member.



**Photo Name (use a pencil to record on the backside):**

***Interview a family member and record:***

**Who is in the photo?**

**When was it taken?**

**Is there a story that goes with the photo that you want to remember?**

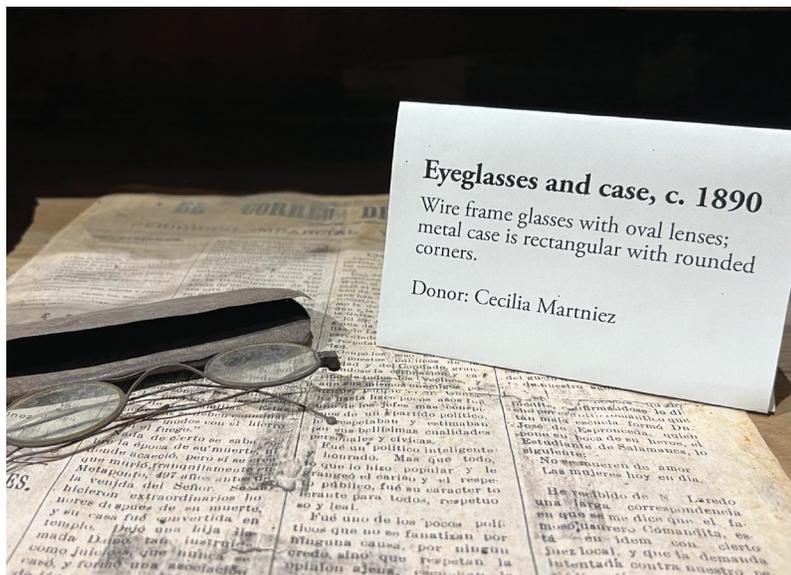
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# PRESERVING YOUR FAMILY MEMORIES

Start by gathering at least three items (not photos). These can be a postcard, a ticket stub to an event, a letter someone wrote describing an event, a newspaper clipping, or even a special object.

Study each object. Then, just like a museum makes a "label" for its objects, you make a label. Before you write labels for your objects, practice by making labels on this worksheet. You can cut your labels for your objects out of this practice worksheet, or print as many as you would like here:



**Eyeglasses and case, c. 1890**

Wire frame glasses with oval lenses; metal case is rectangular with rounded corners.

Donor: Cecilia Martnez



**Fossilized Dinosaur Bone**

*Belongs to Joe Martin*

This fossil was found in Utah in 1998. It is 3" long and 1.5" wide. It is probably 65,000 years old.



**Spurs**

*Belongs to Mary Martin*

These were used by Mary Martin's grandma, Josephine in 1925 on her ranch outside of Laredo. They are 8" long.

Blank lined writing area with a shaded header box.

Blank lined writing area with a shaded header box.

Blank lined writing area with a shaded header box.