

## WHO ARE YOU?

What do you know about your parents?

**Their story is your story.**

- Who are they?
- How did they get here?
- Why did they move here?



Below is a series of questions to get you started on your journey.

## ALL ABOUT YOU

What is your name?

When and where were you born?

Do you have brothers and sisters?

How many and where do you fit in?

What was your first spoken language?

Do you remember any problems associated with being a second language learner?

What was your neighborhood like?

## ASK YOUR FATHER

What is your full name?

Do you go by any other names, nickname?

When and where were you born?

What are your parents' names?

How many brothers and sisters do you have?

Where do you fall in the family?

What kind of jobs have you had?

Was it difficult to learn English?

What has been the hardest challenge in life?

What has been your greatest accomplishment?

When and where did you get married? How old were you?

When did you move to where we live now?

Was that a hard thing to do?

## ASK YOUR MOTHER

What is your full name?

When and where were you born?

What are your parents names?

How many brothers and sisters do have?

Where do you fall in the family?

What kind of jobs have you had?

Was it difficult to learn English?

When and where did you get married? How old were you?

How old were you when your first baby was born?

Was that hard?

What has given you the most joy and pride?

## ASK YOUR GRANDPARENTS (FATHER'S SIDE)

\*If they are not available to interview, question your older relatives, aunts and uncles.

Grandfather's Name:

What were your father's and your mother's parents' names?

When and where were your father and mother's parents born?

Where and when did each couple get married?

How many children did each couple have, boys and girls?

When did each couple enter the United States?

Why did they leave their homeland?

Where did the family settle?

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Grandmother's Name:

What were your father's and your mother's parents' names?

When and where were your father and mother's parents born?

Where and when did each couple get married?

How many children did each couple have, boys and girls?

When did each couple enter the United States?

Why did they leave their homeland?

Where did the family settle?

## ASK YOUR GRANDPARENTS (MOTHER'S SIDE)

\*If they are not available to interview, question your older relatives, aunts and uncles.

Grandfather's Name:

What were your father's and your mother's parents' names?

When and where were your father and mother's parents born?

Where and when did each couple get married?

How many children did each couple have, boys and girls?

When did each couple enter the United States?

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Grandmother's Name:

What were your father's and your mother's parents' names?

When and where were your father and mother's parents born?

Where and when did each couple get married?

How many children did each couple have, boys and girls?

When did each couple enter the United States?

Why did they leave their homeland?

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## PONDER AND SEEK ANSWERS

- Perhaps according to family records, your family has been here for 200-500 or more years.

Maybe family folklore is that some of our ancestors were early colonizers in/or that you have indigenous ancestry.

- Did your ancestors reside in the United States, before there was a United States?

If you have Southwest heritage, it is very likely that they were, and you can search indigenous heritage, by location.

- Gather historical information about the areas and locations that tie in with your ancestry.

Gather information on your surnames of interest, during the time period you are seeking to understand.

## ORGANIZING YOUR DATA

1. Set up a document file on your computer and input the answers as you accumulate them.
2. Print out the questionnaire and take it with you when visiting family.
3. Information can be gathered in many ways: casual conversation with individuals, during family gatherings, viewing family photos, individual face-to-face, telephone interviews, dairies and journals.

## BEGIN YOUR ONLINE SEARCH

- What were the governmental, social, civic conditions at the time that your parents and grandparents were living in those areas?  
Who was the president of their country? Was there a war?
- Did they leave family and property to immigrate to the United States for fear of their lives?
- You will get thousands of hits and may find some clues and answers.
- Conduct a Google search with your surname of interest: example "Garcia (or Lopez, etc.) Family History"
- Conduct a Google search on your surname of interest, time period and location: example "Sanchez San Antonio, Texas 1830"
- Visit **SomosPrimos.com**. . **Free** online monthly magazine in its 19th year, dedicated to Hispanic heritage.  
Search by surname, and location. Emails of contributors of family histories are included.
- Visit **FamilySearch.org**. . **Free** online resource, the largest collection of genealogical information in the WORLD.
- Visit to **SHHAR.org**. . The non-profit Society of Hispanic Historical and Ancestral Research, in-existence since 1986, for further resources, or attend heritage-based community events posted on their website.
- For researching help and information, contact SHHAR at shhar.org



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