

Save Our African American Treasures

Family Activity - Recording Family History

Learning Objectives

After this activity, the learner will be able to create a set of questions and conduct a recorded interview of someone in their family.

Advance Organizer

A person's memory of an event is an important link to the past. Memories tell us how people lived in the past, what was important to that person or how something happened.

Recording what a person remembers allows for that memory to be kept safe and for others to share it.

Tips for Recording Good Oral Histories

- Make sure the other person feels comfortable
- Tell the person what you plan to ask in advance. They might want to look up a date or pull out photographs to remind them of the event
- Ask questions that require more than a "yes" or "no" answer
- Write the name of the interviewer and interviewee, the date and where the interview took place on the tape or CD label

Activity

Ask someone in your family if you may record them. Select an event to ask about (their last birthday, their first dance, a family reunion).

Write some questions.

Find a quiet place and time to conduct your interview.

Play it back so you may both enjoy it.

Learn More!

Recording oral histories is a very important thing for a family to do. There are books to help you learn more about how to record your family's history.

With your parents help, go to the library or online to find out more.