

MY FAMILY HERITAGE RESEARCH

As part of our inquiry learning this term the students will be investigating the concept of heritage and the different cultures that coexist in the local community and in Australia. Heritage helps define our identity and gives us a sense of belonging. Our family heritage is developed over time. It includes things that are important to our family, traditions that have been passed on over generations and can come from a family's religious or cultural background. Our family traditions and religious and cultural background reflect the values, attitudes and ideas that our family believe are important. Some family traditions involve participation and may be activities that people do often (a family meal once a week, a shared hobby) whilst others mark a change within the family (baptisms, birthdays, annual holidays).

TASK

Students are to interview their parents in order to get to know their own heritage and religious/cultural identity. Students are to gather information, having recorded notes (in key words) that they can read & understand for themselves. They may also collect some images that they will be able to use to create a non-fiction poster in class.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Where did your ancestors come from, how long ago and how did they get to Australia?
Immigration History – How did you get to Australia? How long ago?
What are some “traditions” that have been passed down from previous generations (or just started with your immediate family) that are important to your family?

CELEBRATIONS

What special religious or cultural traditions do you have? For example, Christmas, Easter, Ramadan, Making Sauce, Chinese New Year etc.
How do you celebrate? What do you do?
What is special about this celebration?
Are there any rituals or symbols of this celebration?

LANGUAGES

What languages are spoken at home?
Do you or other members of your extended family speak a different language?

FOOD

Describe some typical foods that your family prepare, cook and/or eat that reflect your family heritage. Is there a particular traditional recipe/food that your family makes?
When is it made/eaten? Who began this tradition and why?

JEWELLERY/CLOTHES/COSTUME/CHARMS

Do you have any cultural or religious costumes?
Do you have specific charms or jewellery that has significance to your cultural background?
Do you have any special artifacts that have been passed on in your family for a long time? What makes it so special?

MUSIC/DANCE/STORY

Are there any specific dances or musical instruments in cultural background?
Are there any special stories that someone from your family has shared with you?

Please note that these are guiding questions and you may not be able to answer all of them. Focus on the questions that relate most to your family heritage.