

My family story



Concept:
About me



Recommended:
2nd grade



Length:
30-80 minutes

About this lesson

In this lesson, students will create their family trees and write a short paragraph about a family member from their tree. They will engage in the oral history tradition by sharing their trees and passing along their stories in small groups in class. While we suggest 2nd grade for this activity, you can adapt it to suit the needs and interests of your class.

Learning objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- Describe family stories or information about their family
- Share what they learn from oral histories
- Talk about different families and cultures using kind words

Driving question

How do stories help us learn about our family history?

Future ready skills

Collaboration

Communication

Critical thinking

Empathy

Self knowledge

Self confidence

Lesson breakdown

30-40
minutes

[Activity 1 - Building my family tree](#)

In this activity, students will create their family trees and write a short paragraph about a family member from their tree. Part of this activity will be completed at home with help from a parent or guardian.

40-50
minutes

[Activity 2 - My family tree share](#)

In this activity, students will share their family tree and family member stories in small groups.

In-app My Files

Upload a photo of students' family trees and family member stories, along with a video or photo of them presenting their projects.

Lesson vocabulary

- Heritage
- Oral history
- Generation
- Ancestor
- Relative

ASCA standards

M 1. Belief in development of whole self, including a healthy balance of mental social/emotional and physical well-being

B-SMS 3. Independent work

B-SS 1. Effective oral and written communication skills and listening skills

Building my family tree



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Inquiry prompts

- Why is it important to know where our family members were born?
- How does writing down a story help us keep it forever?

Instructions

In this activity, students will create their family trees and engage in the oral history tradition by passing along a story about a member from their family tree. Creating a family tree is a great way for students to reflect on who they are!

- 1 Explain to students what a family tree is—you can show them your own tree as an example. Tell them that information about family members is often passed on to each generation through oral histories or stories.
- 2 Print off copies of the [Family tree and leaf - worksheet](#) for your students. Students will get assistance from their family members for this activity.
- 3 Send the worksheet, blank paper, and a brief note home with students explaining the purpose of this activity and how parents and guardians can help.
- 4 On each leaf, students write the name of one family member, date of birth, where they were born, and their relationship to the student (i.e. father, mother, aunt, grandfather, etc.).
- 5 Students should ask parents or family members to tell a brief, interesting story about one of the people in their family tree. The story can be about something funny the person did, a job they had, an amazing achievement, or any other interesting detail. To help them remember, students should copy the story to a piece of paper (one paragraph).
- 6 Students will assemble their family trees in class by cutting out their pre-filled leaves and attaching them onto the family tree worksheet.
- 7 Students take their pre-written stories from home and attach them to their trees or to the back of their worksheet.
- 8 Students will present their family trees and stories in small groups in [Activity 2 - My family tree share](#).

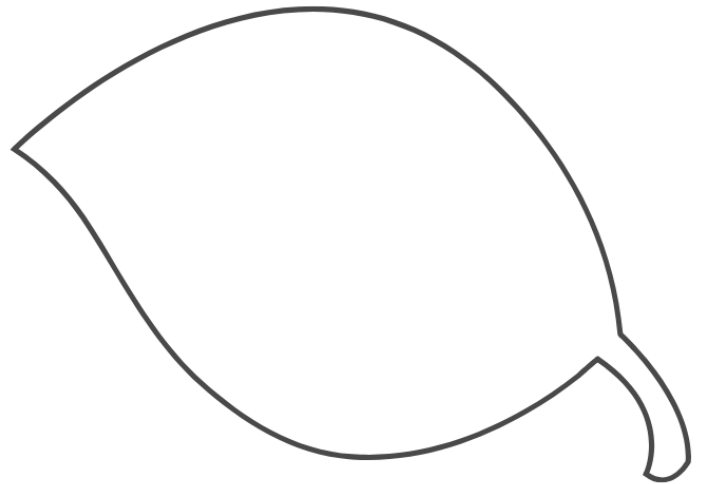
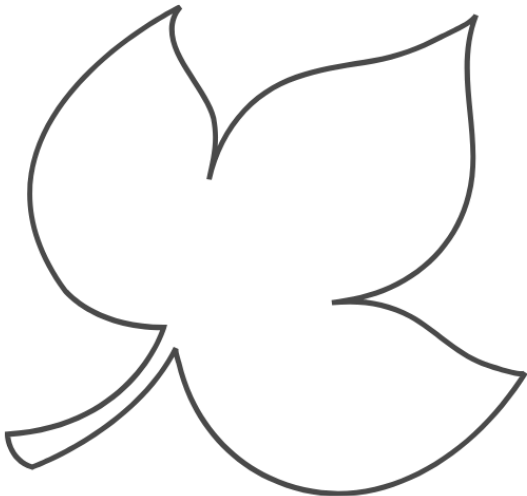
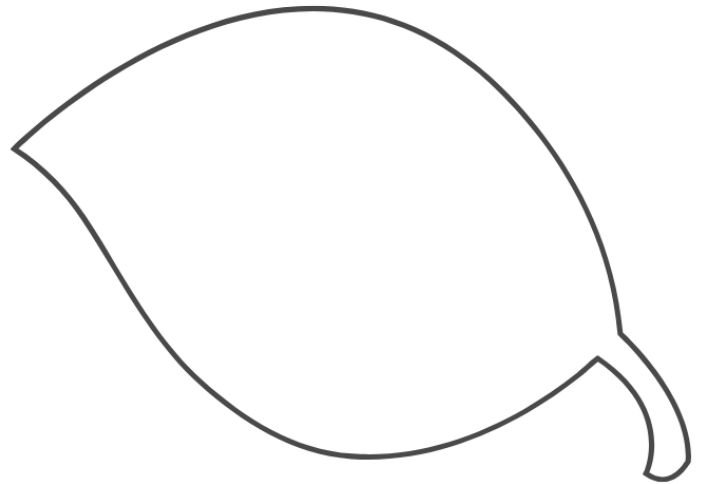
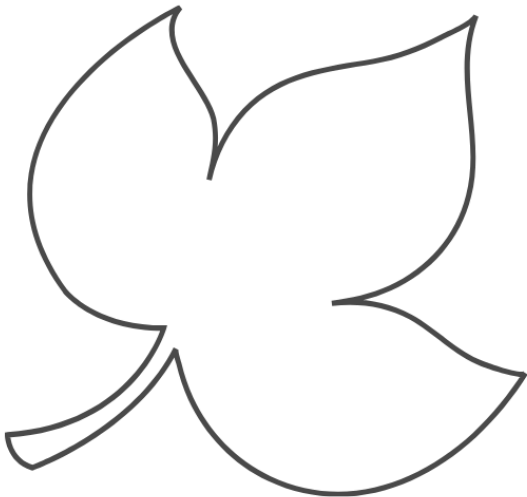
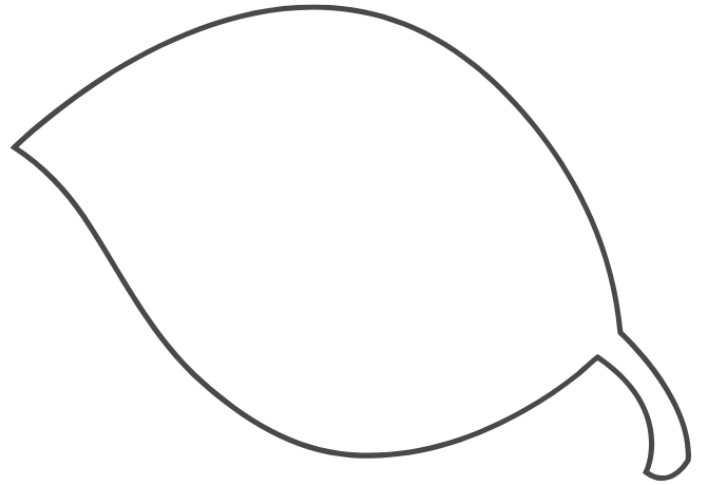
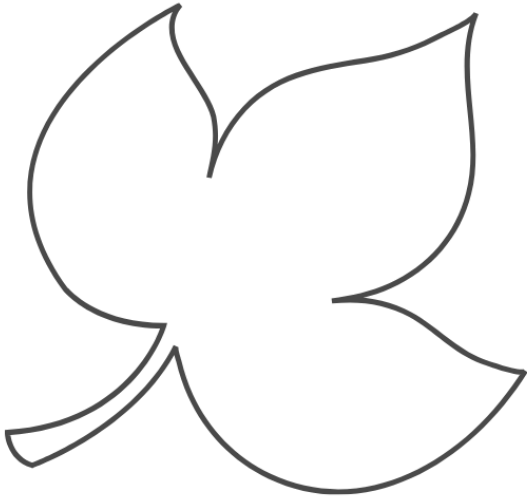
Materials required

- [Family tree and leaf - worksheet](#)
- Paper (sent home for story with worksheet)
- Glue or tape
- Scissors
- Pencils

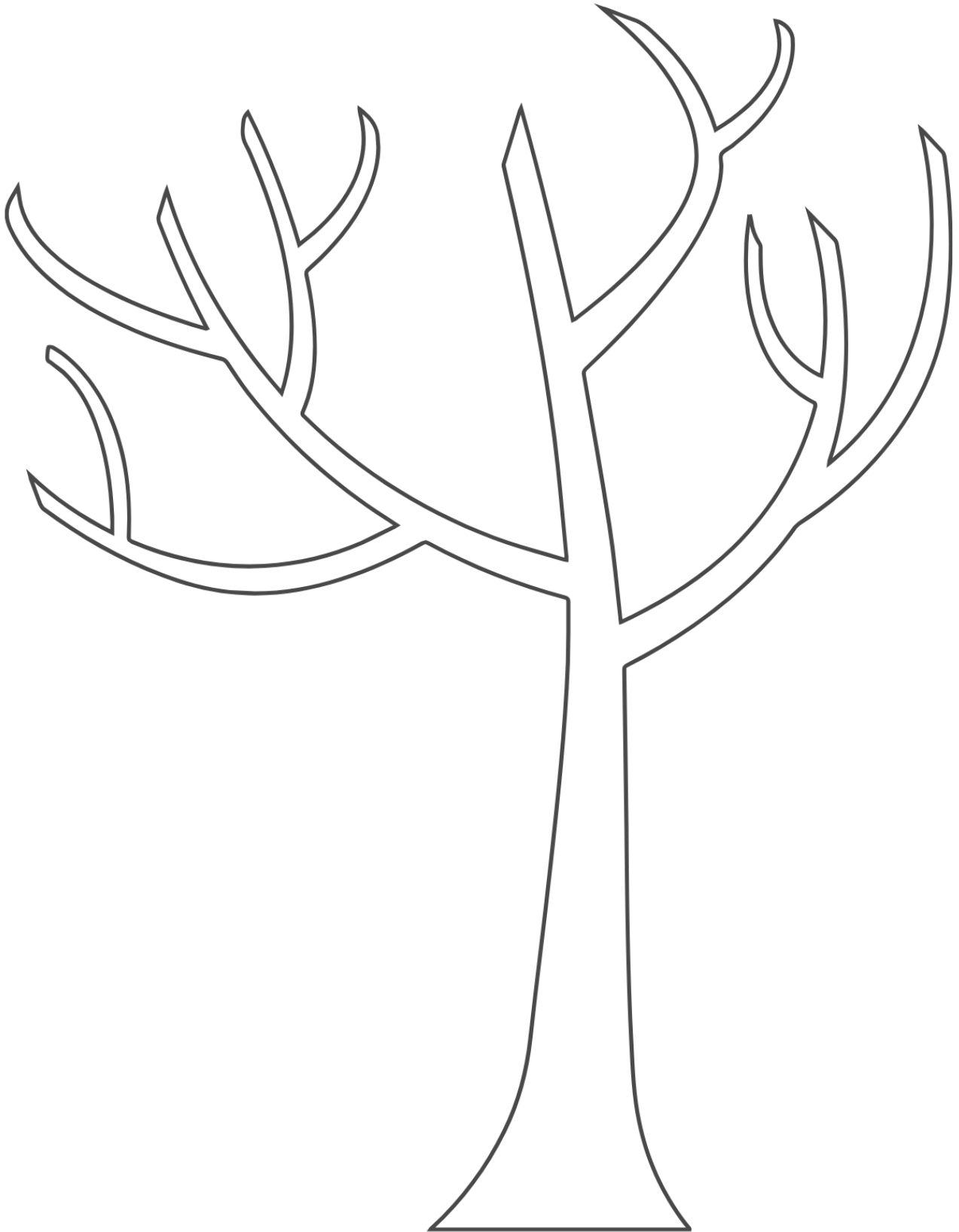
Artifacts

Photo of students' family trees and family member stories

xello



xello



My family tree share



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Inquiry prompts

- What was the most surprising thing you learned about your family?
- How are our family stories the same or different?

Instructions

In this activity, students will present their family trees and stories in small groups as they engage in the oral history tradition of passing along a story about a family member.

- 1 Divide the class into small groups of 4 or 5. Tell students they are practicing the oral history tradition by sharing a story of the family member they chose (e.g., "This is my Grandpa, he was a baker in Italy"). Have each student present their family tree and story to their group.
- 2 Bring the class back together and ask a few volunteers to share one interesting fact they heard from a classmate's story during their small group time.
- 3 Discuss how these stories make the classroom community more interesting and diverse.
- 4 Take a video or photo of students as they present their family trees and stories to display in the classroom or upload to the **My Files** app on their **Dpad**.

Materials required

- Students' completed family trees and stories

Artifacts

Upload a video or photo of students presenting their family trees and stories to the **My Files** app on their **Dpad**.