

Migration Museum

Education Resources

Family Tree Activity

Ages: 8-18

Exploring our family history can help us uncover amazing things about our family and ancestors. These stories often feature migration: Aunts who emigrated, grandparents who immigrated or a great-uncle who spent years travelling the world.

Here is a helpful guide to help you begin to explore your family tree and the stories hidden within. How much do you know about your parents, grandparents or relatives? Do you have someone in your family who migrated somewhere?

We have created some questions for you to ask your relatives. You will also find a family tree outline to print off and fill in! You can even pin stories, drawings and photos to illustrate it. Fill in the names and draw the connecting lines – or draw your own tree. We have also highlighted some great online resources to help you dig even further.

In these times of social isolation, it is more important than ever to reach out to those you can't see via phone or video chat. And being at home for an extended period of time is a great opportunity to find out more about your family and relatives. Tell us who you got in touch with and what type of technology you used to do it.

Share what you uncover with us on social media: @MigrationUK on Twitter or @MigrationMuseumUK on Facebook and Instagram using the hashtags #AllOurStories #FamilyTree #MuseumatHome

Getting started

The most useful tool for creating your family tree is your curiosity! Asking your family members questions is the best way to find out about your family tree.

Social distancing means we can't currently meet people face to face, but that does not stop you from using the phone or the internet to get in touch with your relatives.

Start by listing all the family you know; your siblings, step-siblings, your parents and guardians, your grandparents, your cousins, aunts and uncles. Take some time to ask those you are at home with these questions and get their help to fill in names.

If you have aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents, give them a call and ask them these questions directly.

We have provided a list of suggested questions to start with, but ask as many as you like about anything you like! Don't feel that you need to stick to this script. Talking over the phone or online is a great way to stay connected to loved ones.

Questions to ask:

- Where were you born? Was this somewhere else in the UK or in another country?
- Where have you lived? Have you ever lived, worked or studied abroad?
- Where did you meet your partner/husband/wife?
- When and where did you get married?
- Where were your parents/grandparents born?
- Where did your parents/grandparents meet?
- Do you have siblings?
- Do you have pets?
- Who is the oldest relative you remember? Who are they? Where do they live?
- What was your childhood home like?
- What is your job? What were your parents' jobs?

Think about historical moments that happened during your parents or grandparents' lives: eg; the fall of Berlin Wall 1989, Moon Landing 1969, Cuban Missile Crisis 1962, Gulf War 1990-91, September 11th attacks.

- Do they remember it happening?
- Where were they when this happened?
- How old were they when it happened?
- How did it affect their life?

Remember to take notes and write the answers down. To help, we've created a sheet on the next page that you can print and fill in yourself.

Researching your family history online

Once you have spoken to your relatives and asked them questions, assess the information you have already gathered. How much of the tree can you fill in? What information is missing? What follow-up questions have come up from the answers you've gathered so far?

Luckily there is a lot of information about family history available online. We've found some of the most useful sites to help you in your search.

Here are a few good places to start:

<https://www.family-tree.co.uk/how-to-guides/the-top-free-websites-for-family-history/>
<http://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/news/coronavirus-8-family-history-activities-do-home>
<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/start-here/>
<https://www.myheritage.com>

Answer sheet

Name of person	
Date of birth	
Place of birth	

Have you ever lived abroad? If so where, why and when?

Where did you meet your partner/husband/wife?

When did you get married?

Where did you grow up?

What was your childhood home like?

Do you have any pets?

Where were your parents born?

Where did your parents meet?

What were your parents' jobs?

Do you have siblings?

Who is the oldest relative you remember?

Who are they? Where did they live?

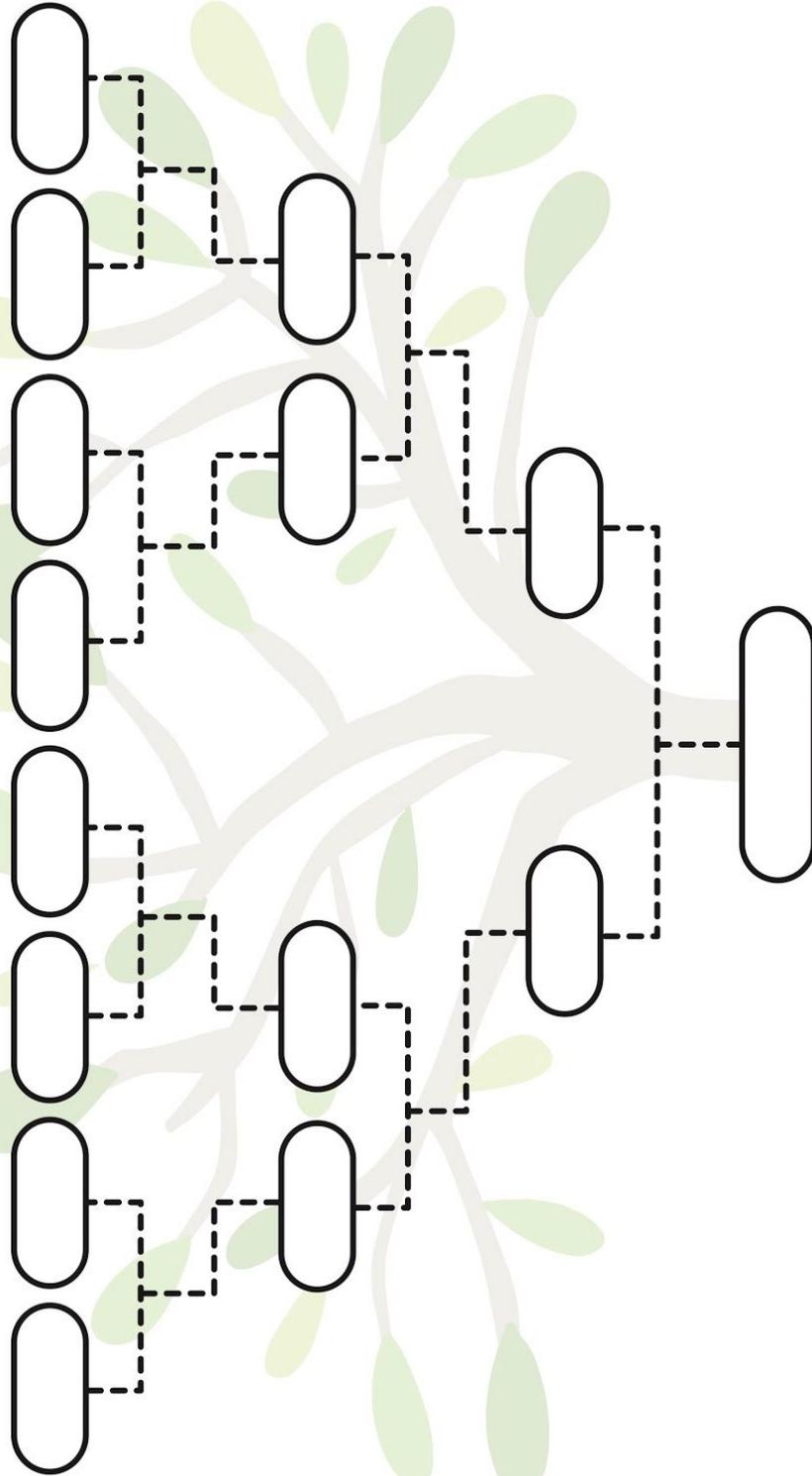
What is your job?

Event	
Date	
Details	

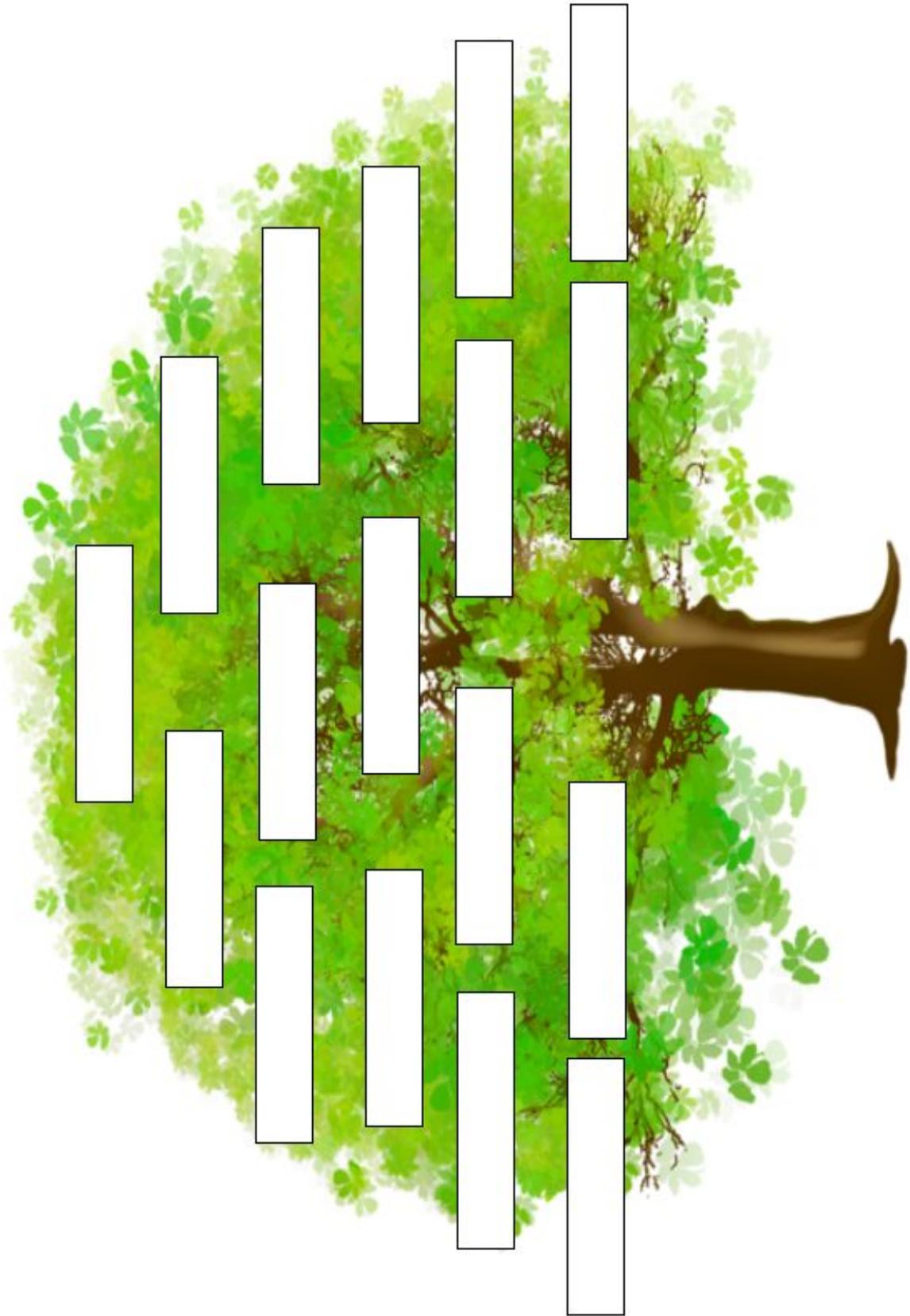
Family tree templates

On the following pages, you'll find a few different family tree templates that you can fill in as you find out more about your family. If the structure of these trees doesn't fit your family, it's easy to draw your own. Take a look at some examples of family trees online to help you design your own.

Family Tree



www.FreeFamilyTreeTemplates.com



Migration Definitions

Below are a few key words and definitions that might be useful to know as you have these conversations.

Key word	Definition
Migration	People moving from one place to another
Immigration	The act of someone coming to live in a different country
Emigration	The act of someone leaving to go and live in a different country
Migrant	Someone who moves from one place to another in order to live in another country for more than a year. (The International Organisation of Migration estimates that 232 million people a year become international migrants and another 740 million move within their own countries).
Refugee	A person who has fled their country due to well-founded fear of persecution for political, religious or ethnic reasons, or because of war.
Asylum Seeker	Someone who has left their own country, often for political reasons or because of war, and who has travelled to another country hoping that the government will protect them and allow them to live there.
Economic Migrant	Someone who leaves their country and moves to another in search of better economic opportunities.