



GROW YOUR FAMILY TREE

A **family tree** is a chart that shows the members of your family. Family trees can be drawn in several different shapes and can show different numbers of generations.

You will be creating a family tree that shows your **ancestors** - the people from whom you are directly descended such as your parents and grandparents. There are other types of family trees showing the **descendants** of a person. Your grandfather's Descendants Tree would show all of his children and grandchildren including you.

A **generation** is a group of people born about the same time and related to a person at the same level – for example your parents are one generation and your grandparents are another generation.

To make your family tree you need to collect information about the members of your family. You may already have some of this information from the activity [Talk to Your Family First!](#)

For each person in the family you need to know:

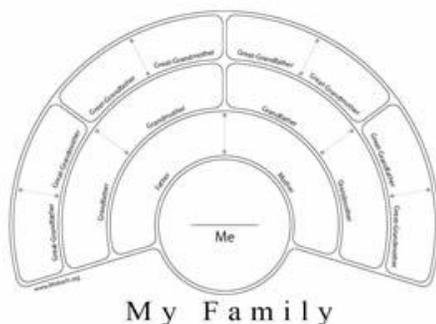
- The full name: given names and **surname** (or family name). A female's surname is always the name she was given at birth, not her married name.
- Date and place of birth
- Date and place of marriage
- Date and place of death

It may not be possible to get all of this information about everyone, and of course some of the people are still alive.

Resources

There are two types of Family Tree Charts to choose from. The Fan Chart is the simplest. You can look at both and choose which one you want to use. There are separate instructions for each type.

1. Fan Chart called “My Family”



2. Ancestor Chart





What to do - **Option 1: Use The Fan Chart Called "My Family"**

1. Download and print the ["My Family" Fan Chart](http://www.misbach.org), courtesy of www.misbach.org
2. Put your full name (given names and surname or family name) and birth date and place in the centre circle.
3. Fill in the names of your father and mother with their birth dates in the spaces next to the circle. Remember to use your mother's birth name! You can write the marriage date in each space or you can write it across the line between their spaces.
4. Above your father's space write the names and dates for his parents. Do the same for the parents of your mother.
5. For each of your grandparents fill in the information about their parents. These are your **great-grandparents**.

Things to think about

All of the people in the rings outside your circle are your **ancestors**. Your father's ancestors are all of the people in the rings outside his space on his side of the fan. Your mother's ancestors are on her side of the fan.

Descendants are a person's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Your mother is a descendant of her parents and grandparents just as you are a descendant of everyone else in the fan.

A grandparent is two generations farther out on the fan. Can you find your father's grandparents?

A grandchild is two generations farther in on the fan. Your mother is a grandchild to which people?

What next

When you have finished your Family Tree you might want to look at the activity:
WHO IS MISSING FROM THE FAMILY TREE?



What to do - **Option 2: Use the Ancestor Chart**

This is the type of chart that many family history researchers use to record their information.

1. Download and print the [Ancestor Chart](#), courtesy of the Victoria Genealogical Society.
2. Where it says "Me", write your full name and your birth date and place. **Siblings** are people with the same parents. If you have brothers or sisters list them under the heading "Siblings". List them in order from oldest to youngest.
3. Fill in the full name and birth date and place for your father. Do the same for your mother. Their marriage date and place can be written under your father's birth date.
4. Your father's parents are your **paternal grandparents**. Follow the arrows from your father's name to find where to enter his parents' information.
5. Your **maternal grandparents** are your mother's parents. Follow the arrows from her name and enter their information.
6. Fill in the information for as many of the parents of your grandparents as you can. These are your **great-grandparents**.

Things to think about

People in the chart may be directly related by birth or related by marriage. **Direct relations by birth** are those where you can move left or right along the arrows. Your mother's mother is directly related by birth to you but she is not directly related by birth to your father.

Everyone to the right of you in the chart is your **ancestor**. For everyone in the chart, direct relations to the right of them in the chart are their ancestors. For example: great-grandfather #10 is an ancestor of your father but he is not ancestor of your mother.

Descendants are a person's children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and so on. You are a descendant of everyone on the chart. Your mother is a descendant of everyone on the bottom half of the chart. Descendants are direct relations by birth.

A grandparent is a direct relation two generations to the right on the chart. Can you find the grandparents of your mother?

A grandchild is a direct relation two generations to the left on the chart. Who is a grandchild of person # 11?

What next

When you have finished your Family Tree you might want to look at the activity
WHO IS MISSING FROM THE FAMILY TREE?