

Family History Questions

QUESTION
What was your favorite thing to do for fun (movies, beach, etc.)?
What school activities and sports did you participate in?
What activities have you especially enjoyed as an adult?
What advice do you have for your children and grandchildren?
Did you receive an allowance? How much? Did you save your money or spend it?
Which ancestor would you most want to meet?
If you could ask your ancestors something, what would it be?
What countries did our relatives come from?
How did you first hear that you were a grandparent and how did you feel about it?
What advice do you have for your children and grandchildren about being a parent?
What did you find most rewarding about being a parent?
Did you spoil any of your children?
Were you strict or lenient as a parent?
Did you find you had to treat each of your children differently? If so, why?

QUESTION
How did you feel when the first of your children went to school for the first time?
How did your family come to live in the city you were born? Were there other family members in the area? Who?
What kinds of books did you like to read?
Do you remember having a favorite nursery rhyme or bedtime story? What was it?
How is the world today different from what it was like when you were a child?
What were the hardest choices that you ever had to make?
Do you feel like you made the right choices?
What chores did you have as a child?
What is your experience with or opinion of computers? (Add or substitute other modern conveniences, such as television, microwaves and cell phones.)
How often did you see your cousins as a child? Do you still see them?
Have you ever been the victim of a crime?
Do you remember your first date? Could you tell me something about it?
How old were you when you started dating?
Do you remember where you went on the first date with your spouse?

QUESTION
Is there anything you have always wanted to do but haven't?
What was the most stressful experience that you ever lived through? What helped you get through it?
What is the most amazing thing that has ever happened to you?
What is the most embarrassing thing that has ever happened to you?
What is the scariest thing that has ever happened to you?
Do you remember any fads from your youth? Popular hairstyles? Clothes?
What kinds of things did your family do together when you were young?
What stories have come down to you about your parents? Grandparents? More distant ancestors?
Are there any stories about famous or infamous relatives in your family?
What was your favorite age and why?
What's your favorite thing about every decade that you've lived in?
What or who is your favorite animal?
What or who is your favorite artist
What or who is your favorite athlete?

QUESTION
What or who is your favorite author
What or who is your favorite board game
What or who is your favorite book?
What or who is your favorite candy
What or who is your favorite card game
What or who is your favorite color
What or who is your favorite cookie
What or who is your favorite drink?
What or who is your favorite flavor of ice cream?
What or who is your favorite flower
What or who is your favorite fruit?
What or who is your favorite holiday
What or who is your favorite meal
What or who is your favorite movie star?
What or who is your favorite movie?

QUESTION
What or who is your favorite musical group?
What or who is your favorite musical instrument?
What is your favorite painting?
What is your favorite poem?
What or who is your favorite poet?
What or who is your favorite restaurant?
What or who is your favorite season
What or who is your favorite singer
What or who is your favorite song
What or who is your favorite sport
What or who is your favorite style of music
What or who is your favorite tree?
What or who is your favorite TV program?
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What or who is your favorite vegetable?
Do you know what your grandparents thought about income tax when it began in 1913?
How did you and your spouse manage money? Did you have different practices?
What's your first memory?
What foods did you hate as a child? What foods do you hate as an adult?

QUESTION
Describe a typical family dinner. Did you all eat together as a family? Who did the cooking? What were your favorite foods?
Have any recipes been passed down to you from family members?
Do you remember not having enough food to eat because times were hard for your family?
As a kid, what was your favorite treat to eat?
Tell me about some of your friends.
Who were your friends when you were growing up?
Name a good friend you have known the longest. How many years have you been friends?
Has there ever been anyone in your life you would consider a kindred spirit or soul mate? Who was he/she and why did you feel a special bond with him/her?
Who would you want to be with if you were stranded on a deserted island?
What were your favorite childhood games?
What's the most memorable gift you received as a child?
What's a favorite memory of your grandmother? What's a favorite memory of your grandfather?
Who were your grandparents? Please give full names. Where were they from?

QUESTION
Do you remember your great-grandparents?
Did you have any of the childhood diseases?
Do you have any health problems that are considered hereditary?
What do you do regularly for exercise?
Do you have any bad habits now or in the past?
Have you ever been hospitalized? If so, what for?
Have you ever had surgery?
Do you or did anyone in our family have any long-term health problems like heart disease or cancer? How old were they when they were diagnosed?
Do you or did anyone in our family have any health issues like high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or asthma? How old were they when they were diagnosed?
Does anyone in our family have any other serious illnesses, such as stroke, Alzheimer's/dementia, genetic birth disorder, or osteoporosis? How old were they when they were diagnosed?
Did our late relatives have health problems? What were the issues and when were they diagnosed?
How old were they when they died?

QUESTION
What were the reasons for their deaths?
Describe your general health.
Do you have any bad habits now or in the past? What were they?
Are there any special heirlooms, photos, bibles or other memorabilia that have been passed down in your family?
Who are some of your heroes?
Who were your childhood heroes?
Growing up, who was the person you most adored or respected?
Who has had the greatest impact on your life?
What kinds of musical instruments have you learned to play?
What are your hobbies?
What did you like to do when you were not working?
How were holidays (birthdays, Christmas, etc.) celebrated in your family? Did your family have special traditions?
How did your family celebrate holidays?

QUESTION
Where was the first house you remember? What was the house (apartment, farm, etc.) like? How many rooms? Bathrooms? What kind of amenities? Were there any special items in the house that you remember?
Where have you lived as an adult? List the places and the years that you lived there.
Why are you living where you are today?
Do you wish you lived somewhere else (If so, where would it be)?
How would you describe your sense of humor?
What is the funniest practical joke you ever played on someone?
What will people say at your funeral?
Where did your spouse's parents live?
What do you remember about the death of your spouse's parents?
What person really changed the course of your life by something he/she did?
Do you remember any advice or comments that had a big impact on how you lived your life?
Who was the person that had the most positive influence on your life? Who were they and what did they do?

QUESTION

Is there a person that really changed the course of your life by something that they did? Who were they and what did they do?

Do you remember someone saying something to you that had a big impact on how you lived your life? What was it?

What do you consider the most important inventions during your lifetime?

Where were you when you heard that President Kennedy was shot?

Describe your first job.

What did you do with your first paycheck?

What was your favorite job and why?

What was your profession and how did you choose it?

If you could have had any other profession what would it have been? Why wasn't it your first choice?

What jobs have you had?

Did you make enough money to live comfortably?

How long did you have to work each day at your job?

How old were you when you retired? Or when do you want to retire or will be able to retire?

QUESTION
What are your children's names, birth dates and birthplaces?
Why did you give them the names that you did?
Do you remember anything your children did when they were small that really amazed you?
What is one of the most unusual things one of your children did regularly when they were small?
What was the funniest thing you can remember that one of your children said or did?
If you had to do it all over again, would you change the way you raised your family?
What did you find most difficult about raising children?
Why did you choose your children's names?
What are two things you'd like people to know about you?
Which member of your family is the best or biggest animal lover?
Which member of your family is the best or cook?
Which member of your family is the best gardener?
Which member of your family is the best housekeeper?
Which member of your family is the best looking?
Which member of your family has the best memory?

QUESTION
Which member of your family is the best story teller?
Which member of your family is the biggest tease?
Which member of your family is the calmest?
Which member of your family is the funniest?
Which member of your family is the hardest worker?
Which member of your family is the most athletic?
Which member of your family is the most colorful?
Which member of your family is the most creative?
Which member of your family is the most frugal?
Which member of your family is the most generous?
What member of your family is the tallest? Shortest?
Which member of your family is the most mischievous?
Which member of your family is the most politically active? For which party?
Which member of your family is the most reclusive?

QUESTION
Which member of your family is the most relaxed?
Which member of your family is the most sociable?
Which member of your family is the quietest?
Of all the things you learned from your parents, which do you feel was the most valuable?
How did you learn how to ride a bike? Drive a car?
What do you believe is the key to a successful marriage?
Describe your wedding ceremony.
Who was there? Were there a best man, a bridesmaid, other wedding party members and who were they?
When and where did you get married? Did you go on a honeymoon?
What is your earliest childhood memory?
Has anyone ever saved your life?
What's your most valuable possession?
Have you ever saved anyone else's life? Describe.
What do you usually dream about?

QUESTION
Have you ever been in a serious accident?
What accomplishments were you most proud of?
What were the hardest choices you ever had to make?
Have you ever met any famous people?
What is the most amazing thing that has ever happened to you?
How do you feel about the choices you made in school, career, spouse?
What organizations or groups have you belonged to?
Have you ever won any special awards or prizes as an adult? What were they for?
Describe a time and a place you remember feeling truly at peace and happy to be alive. Where were you and what were you doing?
What is the single most memorable moment of your life?
How have people surprised you over time?
What's a favorite memory of your mother? What's a favorite memory of your father?
How many grandchildren do you have? How is being a grandparent different than being a parent?
Do you remember hearing your grandparents describe their lives? What did they say?

QUESTION
How did you find out you were going to be a parent for the first time? How many children do you have all together?
What did you find most difficult as a parent? What do you find most rewarding as a parent?
When and where did your parents die? What do you remember about it?
How did they die? Where were they hospitalized and buried?
How did your parents choose your name? Do you have any nicknames?
What do you know about your family surname?
Is there a naming tradition in your family, such as always giving the firstborn son the name of his paternal grandfather?
Were you ever mentioned in a newspaper?
How did your parents meet?
Who were your parents? Please give full names and where they were born. Describe them physically and emotionally.
Talk about the pets you've had in your life. How have pets affected your life?
Are there any physical characteristics that run in your family?
How tall are you?

QUESTION
What color was your hair as a young child and then as an adult?
What color are your eyes
If you could change something about yourself, what would it be?
Tell me about some of the places where you've been happiest.
How would you describe yourself politically? Are you conservative or liberal, and why?
What U.S. president have you admired the most and why?
What wars have been fought during your lifetime?
How did the Vietnam War affect you?
Have you ever had an experience that you would consider to be super-natural or psychic?
Did you ever know something was going to happen before it actually did? What was it?
What are some of your lifetime regrets?
Who's the oldest relative you remember (and what do you remember about him or her)?
Who was the oldest relative you remember as a child? What do you remember about them?
Describe the personalities of your family members.

QUESTION
Do you go to church? How does religion influence your life?
When were you baptized, and what was your religion?
What church do your parents and your grandparents attend?
Do you believe in an after-life?
Where did you go to school? What were your favorite subjects?
What were your favorite school subjects?
Tell me about your favorite teacher.
Where did you attend grade school?
Where did you attend high school?
What were your schools like?
How did you like school?
What was your least favorite subject in school and why?
How do your fellow classmates from school remember you best?
Did you get good grades?

QUESTION
What did you wear to school? Describe it.
Were you ever given any special awards for your studies or school activities?
How many years of education have you completed?
Did you attend any school or training after high school? If so, what was your field of study?
Do you have a college degree(s)?
How did you get to school?
What are the full names of your brothers and sisters?
Tell a story or any memory of your brothers and sisters
What were your favorite songs and music?
Tell me about some of your favorite songs (also books, movies and television shows).
How did you meet your spouse?
What do you admire most about your spouse?
How would you describe your spouse? What do (did) you admire most about them?
How long did you know him/her before you got married?
Describe your wedding proposal.

QUESTION
How would you describe your spouse(s)?
What do (did) you admire most about them?
How long have you been or were you married?
What is the most stressful experience you ever lived through?
Would you consider yourself creative?
What things have you made that others have enjoyed?
What was your favorite toy and why?
What was the greatest tragedy in your lifetime (personal/community)?
What is the most beautiful place you have ever visited and what was it like?
What is the longest trip that you have ever gone on? Where did you go
What has been your favorite vacation? Where did you go and why was it special?
What was the favorite place you ever visited and what was it like?
Have you ever been to a world's fair?
Where do you most want to travel, but have never been?

QUESTION

What trips or vacations do you remember?

What are the values with which you were raised?

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

What world events had the most impact on you while you were growing up? Did any of them personally affect your family?

Do you remember your family discussing world events and politics?

Cuban missile crisis!

As you see it, what are the biggest problems that face our nation and how do you think they could be solved?