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ACTIVITY: Interview a Family Member

CHALLENGE

Interview a family member about an important family 'treasure'.

MATERIALS

- Student Worksheet (See **below** worksheet from page 57-58 of the *Get Outdoors! Guide*)
- Pencil & paper
- Computer or cell phone (if you choose to conduct a virtual interview)

EXPLORE

What is the story of an important family 'treasure'?

MAKE IT HAPPEN

Brainstorm what a family treasure might be. The treasure could be a physical object (such as a work of art, a book, photographs, jewellery, furniture or special food) or something they do not own (such as a favourite memory, place, ceremony, story or song). **Next**, brainstorm a list of questions you can ask about the treasure. You may use the 'Do an interview' worksheet to organize your interview (See **below** worksheet from page 57-58 of the *Get Outdoors Guide*). Practice with a partner or another family member before conducting the interview. Now conduct the interview!

SHARE

Next, tell the story of your family treasure:

- Include the person's name and their connection to the treasure.
- Describe the treasure.
- State why the treasure is valued.
- Add details about the treasure's history and its connections to the person you interviewed.

Include a drawing or a photo of the treasure or person you interviewed. Share your story with your interviewee, classmates & your teacher.

REFLECT

What did you learn about your family treasure?

What did your treasure tell you about your family's culture, traditions, and values?

EXTEND

Create & share a multi-media presentation about your family treasure.

Resource: *Get Outdoors! P. 56-58*

Family Treasures and Cultural Connections

Do an Interview!

Interviews are a great way to find out information about issues, opinions, history and traditions. To help you get the right information in an organized way, follow these steps:



STEP 1: FIGURE OUT YOUR AUDIENCE

Think about the people you'll want to talk to. Who would be best to ask about family treasures – grandparents, parents, other relatives? Maybe it's a friend or community member? You may want to interview more than one person to get all the information. Make a list of all the people you want to interview. Your parents or caregivers can likely help you and may be on your list as well. You'll also need to decide whether you'll interview people in person, by phone or by e-mail. If by phone and the call will be long distance, be sure to get permission.

STEP 2: FIGURE OUT YOUR QUESTIONS

Write down all the things you want to know. Now make them into questions that are short and sweet. A good rule is to ask about only one main idea in each question. (For example: Where did the old clock come from? How long has the rocking chair been in the family? How many times has the family visited Shuswap Lake? Who first told that story?) Another tip: ask who, what where, when, why and how and you'll likely cover all the points.

STEP 3: PRACTICE WITH A PARTNER!

Try out your list of questions on a partner to make sure they are clearly worded and easily understood. Ensure that each of you is asking the right questions to receive all the information you want. Talk about any problems you have understanding each other's questions, then re-write your questions to make them better.



STEP 4: GET INTERVIEWING!

Make a date for your interview or phone call with a family member for a specific time. When meeting in person or on the phone, make sure you have a quiet spot in which to talk. Have plenty of paper to take notes. Write down as much as you can in point form and don't worry about neatness – as long as you can read it! If you have a tape recorder, record the interview to make sure you get all the details – be sure to ask permission first.

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Step 5: Organize Your Data

When you've finished the interview, organize your notes and information as soon as possible, so you don't forget anything. If you taped the interview, listen to the tape and transcribe (write out) what was said. Add any other information you may have collected through emails or other interviews. Is there a photo you could include, or a drawing you could make?

written presentation:

Now organize your information into a

- Use your questions as headings to tell the story of your family treasure.
- Give the person's name and his or her connection to you and to the treasure.
- Describe the treasure.
- State why it is valued.
- Add details about the treasure's history and its connections to the person you interviewed.
- Explain how the treasure is protected.
- Include a drawing or photo of the treasure or person you interviewed, if possible.

Quick Notes

Student
Worksheet