

1 Family Ties

Reading

A Work in pairs. How many words for family members can you think of? Write as many as you can in one minute.

B How can you learn about your family's past? Write down the different ways in your notebook. Then, quickly read the text. Are your answers the same?

C Read the text about family history and match the headings below with the correct sections in the text.

- A Your turn
- B What is genealogy?
- C Research and records



Meet the ancestors

What makes you who you are? Part of the answer is in your family's past. Become a detective and find clues to your family history.

Word Focus

gene: part of a cell passed from parents to children that determines how they look

generation: the people of about the same age in a particular family

ancestor: person related to you who lived a long time ago

genealogy: the study of family history



1. When you look in the mirror, do you see your father's smile? Maybe you take after your mother or look like a grandparent? That's because of DNA. Our DNA contains **genes** that make each person in the world different - no two people look, think or act the same. We pass down our genes through **generations**. Scientists can test your DNA to find out which part of the world your **ancestors** were from.
2. Your family's history may be a mystery to you, but there's a way to find out about it. It's called **genealogy**, and it's the study of the people you are related to. Genealogy helps you put together your family history. It starts with the relatives you know, such as parents and grandparents, and then you can learn about ancestors who lived and died before you were born.