Family History Prompts to Bring to the Table this Thanksgiving

Whether you're celebrating in-person with family and friends, or planning a virtual celebration with far-away loved ones, Thanksgiving is the perfect time to tell stories and learn more about your family history. The following questions can help you get the conversation started.



Were you named after another relative? How about a historical figure—or something more unusual? Tell the stories behind your family names.



Who was the oldest relative you got to meet in your lifetime? How old were they? How old were you?



Pull out the family map—where have you lived? Where did your family originate? Find out how far your family has spread over the years.



What are some of your favorite pictures from different points in your life? Pull out the family photo albums!



What is your earliest memory? How old were you?



What do you remember most about school? Compare older relatives' experiences in school with younger relatives—what's changed?



What did you want to be when you grew up?
Would your childhood self be surprised to learn about your adult life as it is?



Who is the earliest known ancestor you can name? What do you know about them?



What was the biggest historical event that happened in your childhood? Do you remember it well?



Weird family traits: we all have them! Are you double-jointed, or can you wiggle your ears? See if the rest of the family shares your talents.



Where is the most amazing place you've visited? Did you travel with family? Where do you hope to visit someday?

