

# TOP TIPS ON RESEARCHING YOUR FAMILY TREE

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**Step 1: Work Backwards.** Start with yourself, record all your details and then write down everything you already know about your family.

**Step 2: Speak to your Family.** Find out what your parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents & cousins know and check if anyone else in the family has done a family tree that you can copy or work with.

**Step 3: Select a single surname or individual to research.** Focusing your search helps to keep your research on track, reducing the chance of missing important details.

**Step 4: Become a detective.** Search for physical clues in drawers and boxes. Look out for documents that give names, dates and family relationships.

**Step 5: Explore the internet for information.** There are many databases, message boards and websites that specialise in genealogy.

**Step 6: Visit the places where your family lived.** Look at cemeteries, courthouses, churches and old maps for information.

**Step 7: Enter all the information you've gathered into a family tree chart.** If you're unfamiliar with these you can find step-by-step instructions online.

**Step 8: When you have gone as far as you can go, step back and take a break.** Then go to Step 3 and choose a new ancestor to research!

