

Family Tree Lesson

This lesson contains activities designed to go along with any book that deals with families, or any book that discusses family trees.

Part One:

Have a discussion with your class. Describe your family, or the family you grew up in. Then ask children to describe their families – Children will raise their hands and talk about their sisters, brothers and parents. Some will expand, and include grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. Accept everything, as families include a variety of people.

Then describe a special day with your family. As you describe the day, model writing about it for your class. I have included a graphic organizer for students to complete; if that is a tool you enjoy using. I have also included a quick writing page, in case you are short on time. Generally I use one writing lesson to model with the graphic organizer. Then, in a separate writing lesson, I show students how to turn the thoughts on my graphic organizer into a paper. This takes us through the full writing process, and extends this activity over a full week to include first and final drafts. The final drafts, attached to the family trees, make a beautiful bulletin board.

After modeling, ask students to take a few minutes and think of a special day they spent with their family. You can remind students to think of special days like their birthdays, holidays, or something as simple as shopping with the family. When they are done thinking, have them begin the writing activity.

Part Two

If students completed the graphic organizer yesterday, they may begin their rough drafts about their special day with their families today. I give my students regular writing paper for their rough drafts.

If your students went straight to their papers yesterday, have them complete the third worksheet and then begin their family trees in class. Most students will need to go home to complete their family trees. Remind students that you want the full names of family members. Some students may want to write Grandma for the name of their grandmothers. Remind them, that this is not their grandmother's actual name, but a special name they call her. Let them know that it is okay if they do not know relatives actual names, and that they will be completing the family tree as homework.

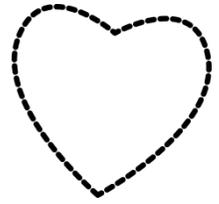
Some students may get a bit upset, or say something like "I don't have a father". Explain to them that that is okay. We are completing our own family trees, and everyone's family is unique. None of our family trees can look the same, because we all have our own families. There is no right, or wrong way to complete your family tree.

Students may also become confused and think that if a grandparent is already deceased that they should not name them. Explain to them, that family trees continue to grow even after family members pass on. That is why they are called family trees.

Homework for Day Two: Have students go home and complete their family trees. Encourage students to decorate their family trees once they are complete.

Name _____

Date _____



A Special Day with my family

What members of your family spent the day with you, and when was this special day?

What made the day special?

What did you and your family do on this special day?

Name _____

Date _____

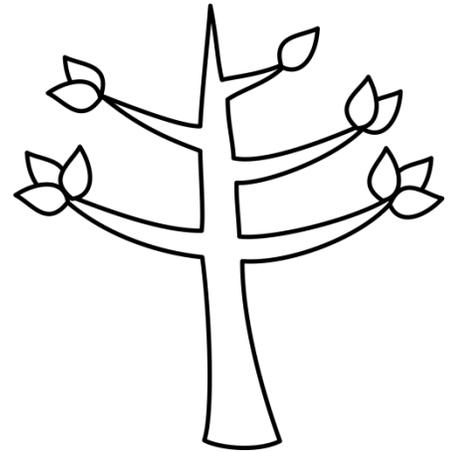
What is your full name? _____

What is your nickname (if you have one)? _____

What is your mother's first name? _____

What is your father's first name? _____

What are the names of your sisters and brothers?



If you know the story of how you got your name, write it here. If you do not know the story, go home and ask tonight and complete this section tomorrow.

Maternal Grandmother

Maternal Grandfather

Paternal Grandmother

Paternal Grandfather

Mother

Father

You

sibling

sibling

sibling

Name _____

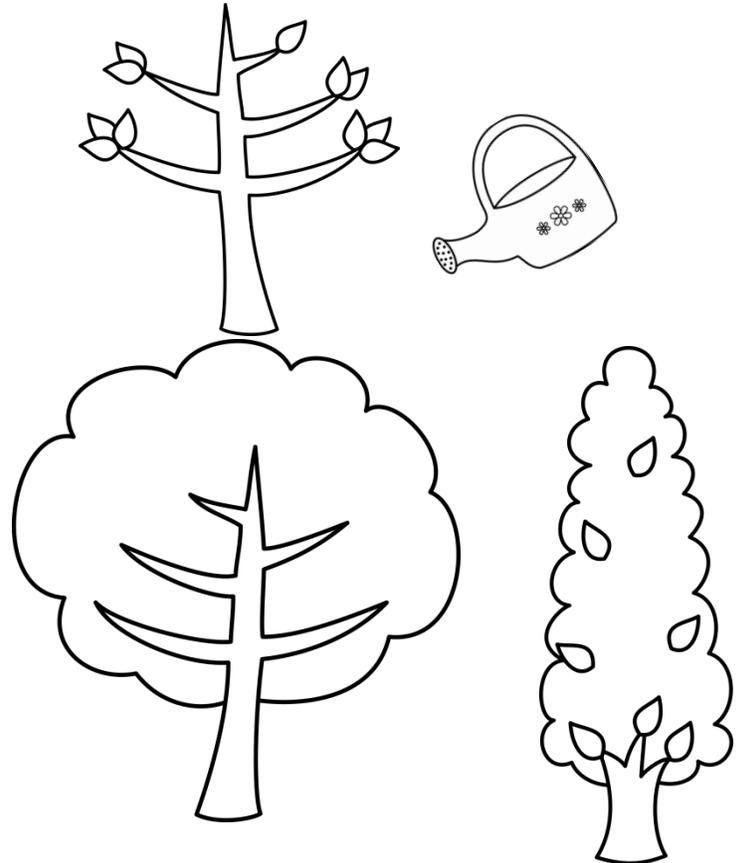
Date _____

You grow everyday, just like a tree. Families continue to change and grow over the years too. Trees can live for hundreds of years, and family lines can too. People love their families, and enjoy seeing the names of everyone and how they are all related. People created family trees to do that. We call them family trees, because family lines live for a long time.

It may not seem to you that your family is growing or getting larger right now, but as you continue to grow so will your family. The family tree you're creating in this unit is your first one. As you continue to grow and learn more about your family you can add to it, or create a new one.

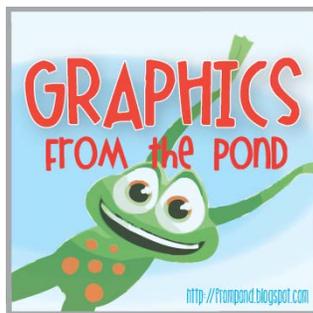
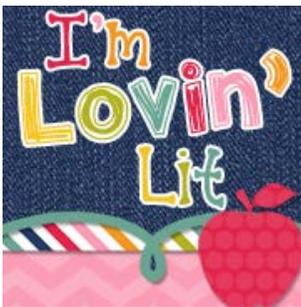
Just as trees look different, people's families look different. There is no right or wrong family tree.

What have you learned about your family that you didn't know before?



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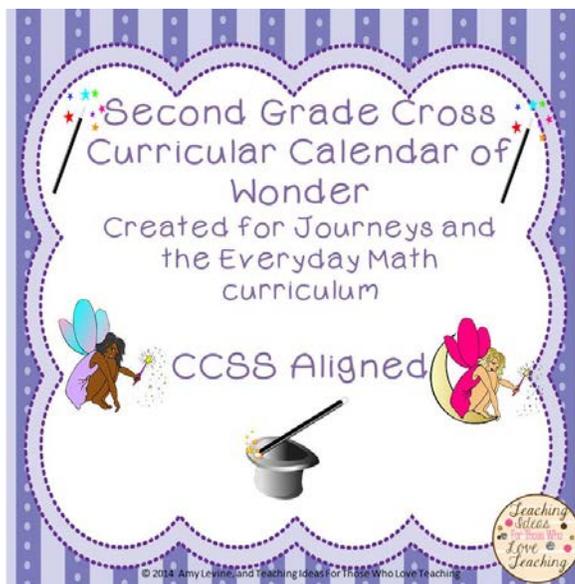
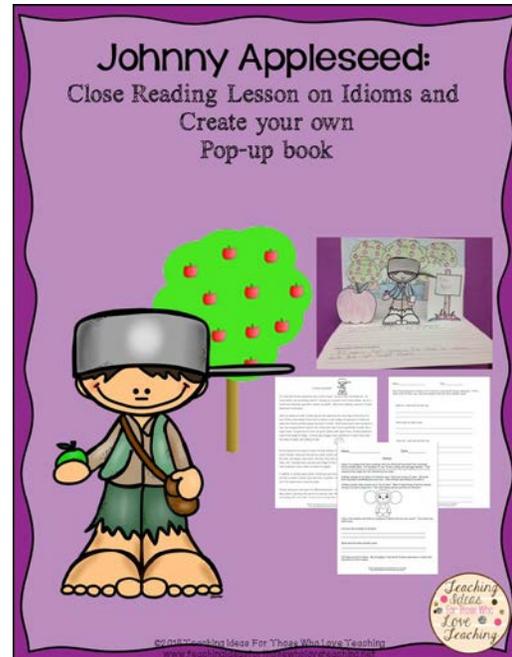
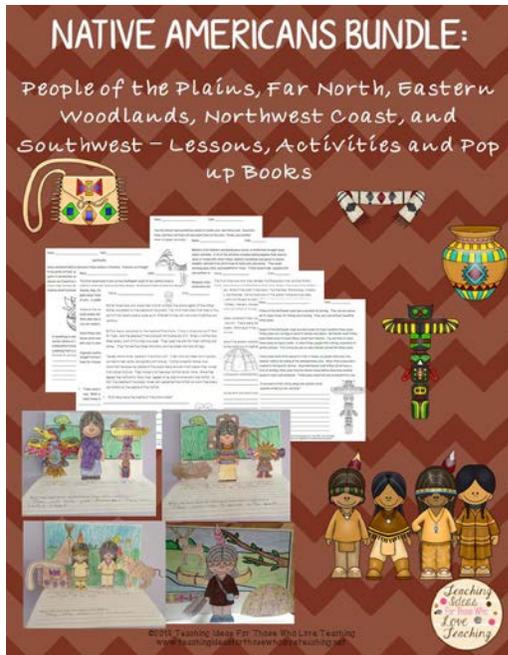
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