

# FAMILY HISTORY FUN FOR CHRISTMAS



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Activities for kids of all ages

# IT'S A FACT!

Family History provides meaningful connections to relatives who have done hard or great or inspiring things.

Knowing the culture your family came from gives children a sense of belonging to something greater than themselves.

Kids who have a strong link to their ancestors' stories and lives feel more grounded, have fewer emotional problems as teens, and are more confident in difficult situations.

Family History encourages children to feel compassion for others less fortunate than themselves as they review the hardships that their ancestors overcame.

# FACT OR FICTION



- Make colorful cards on Christmas-y paper with true or false statements about your family's ancestors. Add in some that have to do with Christmas traditions or stories (can be from their country of origin or that you know from your family history or that you make up). Make some of them funny, outlandish or silly!
- Take turns answering "True" or "False." Or make little signs on sticks with True on one side and False on the other. Everyone holds up their stick and then finds out who is right. Tell the right answers to the False questions, if there is one.

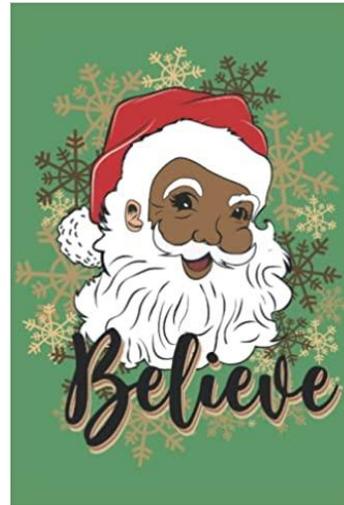
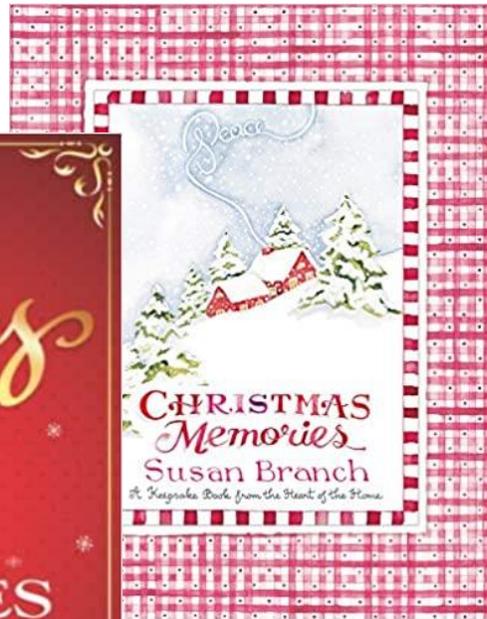
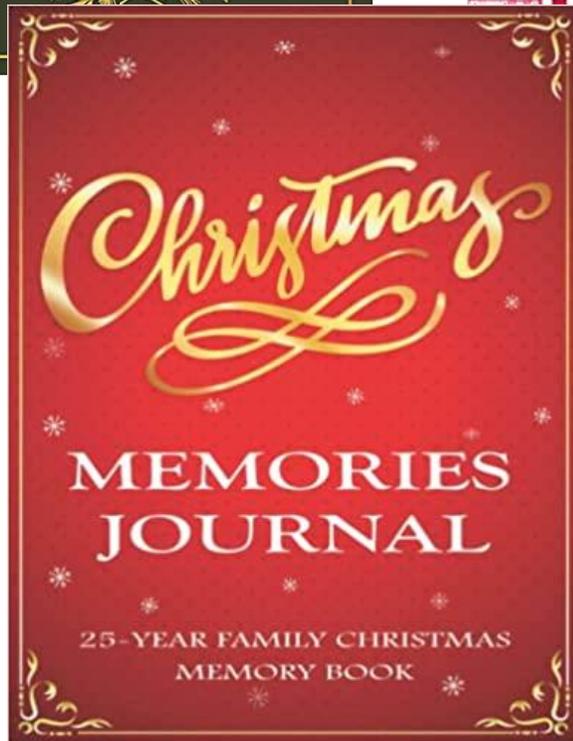
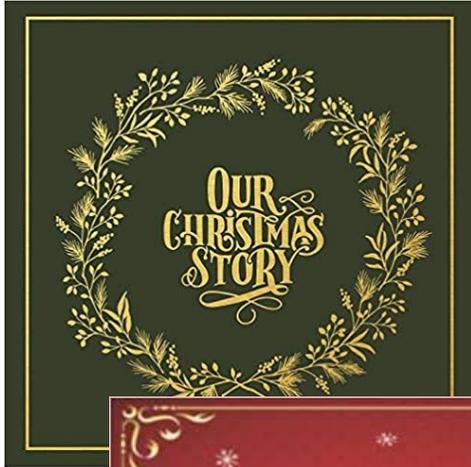
True or False: Great-grandpa Sorensen used to take sleighrides into Malad in the winter to buy presents for Christmas.



# OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS

- Decorate a small tree with old-fashioned ornaments made of pine cones, paper cutouts or doilies. Make paper chains or string popcorn for tinsel. Put some LED candles on the branches.
- Tell some stories about your childhood Christmases or have the children tell about their favorite Christmases as you are working.
- Sing a few old carols or play them on YouTube.
- Talk about what kinds of gifts their ancestors might have received on Christmas.

# MAKE A CHRISTMAS MEMORY BOOK



- Buy a Christmas Journal and keep it this year or every year OR
- Make your own Christmas Journal.
- Add photos.
- Write stories.
- Write memories of childhood Christmases.
- Have each person in the family contribute a page or two.
- Compile it after Christmas and have it published by an online book publisher.

# MAKE A FAMILY-TREE CHRISTMAS TREE

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- Make a large Christmas tree shape from green paper.
- Put a star on the top.
- Put your family tree together in a Christmas tree shape by starting at the top with your own family name and adding the other names in order or the pedigree chart so it winds up in a pyramid shape.
- Or you can put each person's name on a paper ornament and "hang" them on the tree in order of the pedigree chart.



# MAGNETIC FAMILY-TREE CHRISTMAS TREE

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- This is a great project from GrowingLittleLeaves.com.

- Instructions are here:

[www.growinglittleleaves.com/blog/magnetic-family-christmas-tree](http://www.growinglittleleaves.com/blog/magnetic-family-christmas-tree)

- Emily Kowalski Schroeder has lots of great FH ideas!

- See [www.ahousefullofsunshine.com/2015/11/60-christmas-activities-to-do-as-family/#sthash.xu0htypJ.qjtu](http://www.ahousefullofsunshine.com/2015/11/60-christmas-activities-to-do-as-family/#sthash.xu0htypJ.qjtu) for ideas for family fun.



**My Holiday Traditions** name \_\_\_\_\_

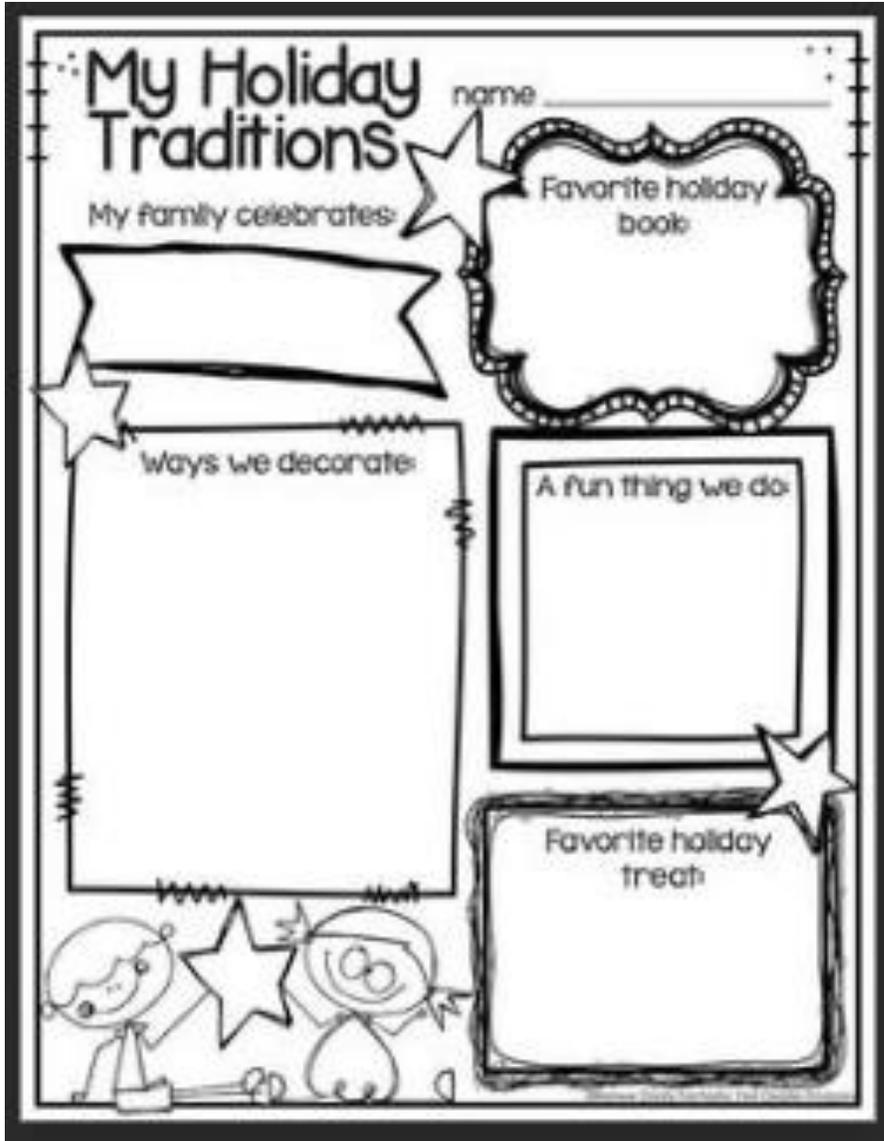
My family celebrates:

Favorite holiday book:

Ways we decorate:

A fun thing we do:

Favorite holiday treat:



DO ACTIVITY PAGES OR  
BOOKLETS TOGETHER

# RESEARCH CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS THROUGH TIME

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- Find out the history of the holiday in the cultures and areas where your ancestors lived.
- Make a booklet with facts and illustrations.
- Relate the historical facts to your own ancestors' lives.



# FAMILY TRADITIONS SHOW AND SHARE

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Have each family member bring in an object or picture that they would like to share that reminds them of a special Christmas memory or tradition that they love.



Talk about why memories are important and how to save them. Record the memories or thoughts and put them on each person's personal FamilySearch Memories page.



Decide on a new tradition that everyone would like to start!

# USE A TELLING TREE TO SHARE MEMORIES

- Draw a simple Christmas tree with five layers of branches.
- Write Who? When? Where? What? Why? on the layers starting from top to bottom.
- Each person tells a Christmas memory or family story by starting with Who? and then going down the tree to answer each of the W questions.
- If you want to get fancy, make a tree for each person with five ornaments that they can write their answers on an attach to the appropriate part of their tree.



# CHRISTMAS BOARD GAMES

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- Visit [www.hhhistory.com/2020/12/christmas-board-games.html](http://www.hhhistory.com/2020/12/christmas-board-games.html) for a fun trip through the history of Christmas board games.
- Then make your own board game!
- There are tons of Christmas games on Etsy.

# December

January 2016  
S M T W T F S  
1 2  
3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
10 11 12 13 14 15 16  
17 18 19 20 21 22 23  
24 25 26 27 28 29 30  
31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day	2



## MAKE A FAMILY HISTORY ADVENT CALENDAR OR 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

- Make an advent calendar using your ancestors' names on cards or small copies of their photos. Put one photo or card on each day and talk about that ancestor.

# ANOTHER ADVENT IDEA

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- Take 24 (or 12 or 4) small cups and glue them into a flat box. Put a piece of candy (save Halloween candy!) in each cup. Cover each cup with a round piece of parchment paper that has a number and an ancestor's name or photo on it. Glue each one down onto the edges of the cups. Each day, the child breaks through the paper and eats the candy while you discuss the ancestor.



# A FEW MORE IDEAS

01

Make

- Make gifts for family members.

02

Interview

- Interview Grandmas and Grandpas (and Greats) about their favorite Christmases. Record the conversation and put it on their Family Search memory page.

03

Make and take

- Make and take a Christmas treat to a relative you haven't seen for a while. Talk to your kids about your relationship and why it is important to you.

04

Have a family evening or a cousin sleepover/Grandparent fun night and take turns telling each other why you think each person is a gift in your life.

05

HAVE A ZOOM PARTY!

# LAST, BUT CERTAINLY NOT LEAST

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- Tell your children the story of their Elder Brother's First Christmas. Find a good, illustrated book about the Christmas story, read from the scriptures, set up a creche, or look at beautiful paintings (on the internet) of the Nativity. Talk about why Jesus Christ is important to you and how we can give gifts to him by giving love and service to others.

