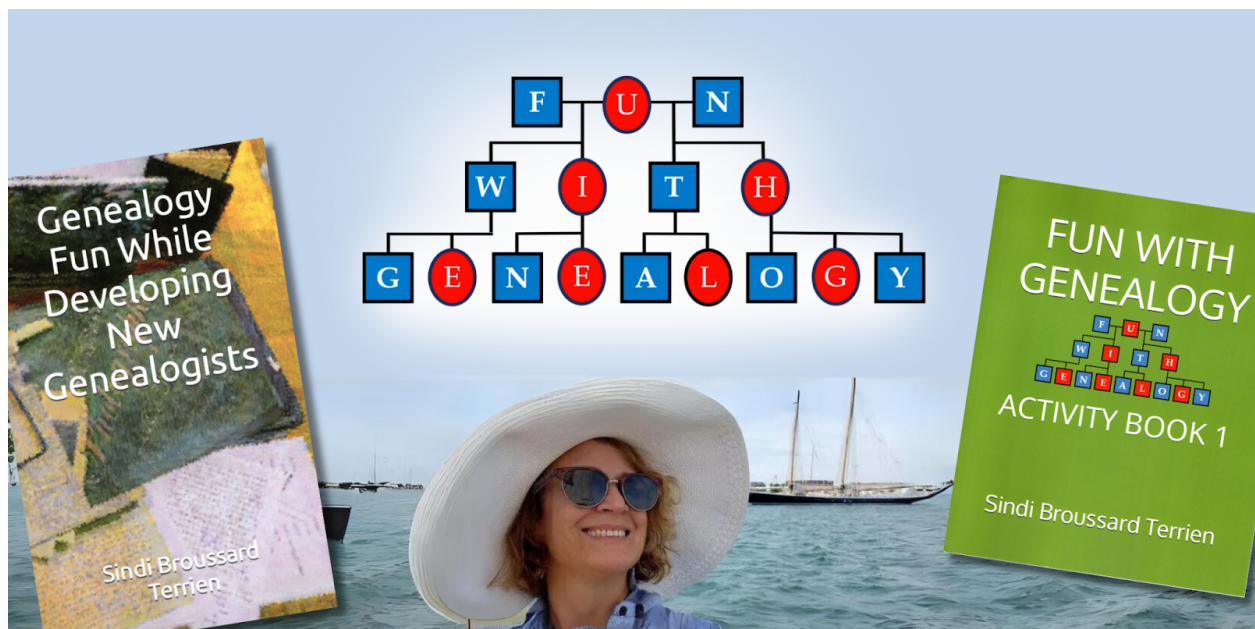


## FAMILY HISTORY PROJECT RECIPE:



# Genealogy Activity Books for Kids

Explanatory subhead that includes reference to “what” it is

January 18, 2024, by [Sindi Broussard Terrien](#)

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## OVERVIEW

An Activity Book is a compilation of several different family genealogy or family history activities in one place. Activities are created to relate to your specific family and customized to pique the interest of your family.

## Goals

This project has one simple goal: Engage your family in learning their genealogy and family history. Once you can establish that the activity can be fun, kids tend to look for more projects.

## Specifications

You can deliver an activity book in a variety of formats. The format you choose will depend on the number of people you anticipate using it. If you're developing something for your children or grandchildren, then a simple printout from a laser printer will do.

To produce something at scale, such as at a large family reunion, consider formatting materials into a booklet and printing them through a local shop or online printer. Printers will typically offer printing specifications based on their equipment requirements.

### Design your book with your audience in mind

As with any book, you'll want to design your activity book with your audience in mind. I generally start with a few questions to help...

- Identify your audience and their...
  - Likes and dislikes.
  - Interests, consider things like airplanes, costumes or other subjects you've seen to get them excited.
  - Developmental or grade-level as they affect...
    - Skills like reading or subject knowledge: You can target activities at a skill level they can grow into, but if they're too far out they're not accessible.
    - Topics/words they find interesting and engaging.

## Milestones

### I. Identify activities that you will use in your activity book

In my experience, there's an array of different kinds of activities you can use in a kids' activity book. With experience and experimentation, I've settled on a selection of types of activities that work well. You can get started by choosing from this list:

- Word Search
- Crossword puzzle
- Coloring page
- Word Match
- Collage search
- Letter/Journal to transcribe
- Family Traits
- Statistics

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## II. Identify tools needed to create the activities.

The tools you'll need to create these activities are the kinds of things that most family historians have in their ordinary workspace. Things like ...

- Word processor
- Computer apps
- Photographs
- Family facts
- Family Tree information
- Letters/Journals/Diaries


## Project Recipe

Determine the activities and number of activities suited for your audience.

PROJECT RECIPE	
<b>TITLE</b>	Creating a Family Genealogy Activity Book
<b>TYPE</b>	Book/Booklet
<b>TIME (est.)</b>	5-7 days (on-and-off)
<b>TOOLS &amp; MATERIALS</b>	Computer, Word Processing program, activities; scanner Options: Crossword/Word Search Apps; Coloring page apps; old letters or diaries to transcribe
<b>PREPARATION</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Coloring pages - identify photos to transform photos into line art (finding the right photograph to be line art can take time)               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Portraits of grandparents or great-grandparents</li> <li>b. Houses grandparents or great-grandparents lived in</li> <li>c. Map of the state the family lives in</li> <li>d. Family heirlooms</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Word Search - Identify words (see note below)               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Family Surnames</li> <li>b. Family First Names</li> <li>c. All about family                   <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Ethnic group</li> <li>ii. Locations lived</li> <li>iii. Country of origin</li> <li>iv. Specific events</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Crossword Puzzle               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Similar to above</li> <li>b. Identify words</li> <li>c. Create definitions</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Word Match               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Family Members - Relationship to others</li> <li>b. Occupations - Family Members</li> <li>c. Places lived - Family Members</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Collage Search       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Collection of photographs</li> <li>b. Create collage</li> <li>c. Identify people/things to find in the collage</li> </ol> </li>   <li>6. Letters/journals to transcribe       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Scan in letter/journal</li> <li>b. Provide instructions for transcribing</li> <li>c. Create a table for transcribing content</li> </ol> </li>   <li>7. Family Traits       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Prepare a table with a list of traits</li> <li>b. Prepare instructions for tracking traits</li> </ol> </li>   <li>8. Statistics       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Identify family members/ages/years of birth/marriage/death</li> <li>b. Compare family ages at marriage/when the first child was born/when died</li> <li>c. Number of locations family members lived</li> <li>d. Value of home in different census years</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>NOTES</b>	<p>Word Search apps can be quick and easy to use, but sometimes the created puzzle has far too many word choices that are in one particular direction. For example, there may be 10 across and up and down words, but only one or two diagonal words. Another option is to create a Word Search using a spreadsheet program.</p> <p>Here's how:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify the longest word in the group of words that will be in the word search.</li> <li>2. The number of columns and rows must accommodate the longest words.</li> <li>3. Rows and Columns must be the same width and height       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. On the first row, type a Cap W in each column. Center the W in each column.</li> <li>b. In the first column, type a Cap W in each row. Center the W in each row</li> <li>c. For each word, enter one letter in each field using the Caps Lock key</li> <li>d. Use red font for words that are to be found</li> <li>e. Enter the longest words first and then work down to</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

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	<p>the smallest words.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>f. Fill in spaces in black font</li><li>g. Black and Red puzzle will be your answer key.</li><li>h. Save it.</li><li>i. Copy the file and then change the font for the entire puzzle to black.</li><li>j. Save it with a different name.</li></ul>
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<b>REVIEWS &amp; COMMENTS</b>	See comments on the recording of this project recipe event at Projectkin.org.

