

### What is Oral History?

Oral History is all about the sharing of people's experiences for future generations. Each person has his or her own unique story to tell. Asking questions that will help them remember half-forgotten details, clarifying that which is muddled, both storyteller and listener ultimately end up exploring the past together. In this activity, we'll discover how much we know about your culture, lifestyle and traditions! History comes to life, memories are passed down, and we gain new insights into the past.

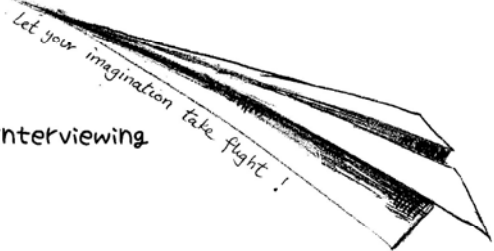
## Conduct your own Oral History interview!

### What to do first

- ♦ Find someone whom you wish to interview
- ♦ Do a little research! For eg., you could find out more about the interviewee's country of origin by looking up an atlas or encyclopaedia
- ♦ Think of questions to ask
- ♦ Get a recording device ready and practise using it (optional)

### During the interview

- ♦ Make the interviewee feel at ease
- ♦ Ask your questions!
- ♦ Remember to thank the person you're interviewing
- ♦ Record the interview if you can



Let your imagination take flight!

### After the interview

- ♦ Write down the interview
- ♦ Reflect on what you have heard. Was there anything that
  - ⇒ surprised you?
  - ⇒ shocked you?
  - ⇒ made you want to know more about something?
  - ⇒ made you think something was more important than you originally thought?
- ♦ You might want to share what you have learnt with others
- ♦ You might also want to think about a story you too would someday like to leave behind.  
Perhaps you could start keeping a journal!

# QUESTIONS :

What is your name?

What did your parents do?

When and where were you born?

Can you describe your parents?

What were your favourite childhood games?

Can you describe your grandparents?

Can you describe a typical school day?


How did your family celebrate holidays, summer breaks, religious celebrations etc.?

Can you tell me about your education?

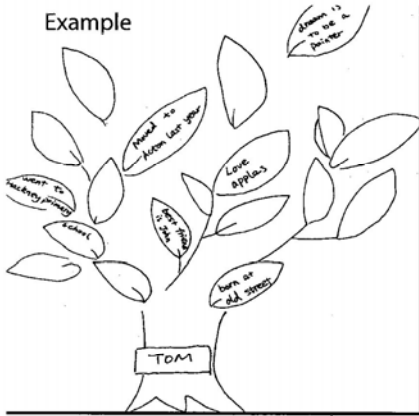
What was the most important thing you learned from your parents?

How did you spend your free time?

Can you describe your friend(s)? What are some of the activities that you would all do?

 There are many other questions you could ask. Why don't you think of some more?

Example



"We're a tree / our roots go deep down in history..."  
- from a traditional folk song

Fill the leaves on the tree below with some facts, characteristics and virtues of a person - it could be yourself, your mum or dad, or a friend! You might discover something interesting! See the tree on the left for an example.

