

Topic: Story Tellers

Badge: My Family Story

Suggested Supplies: Brownie story tree or blank paper; crayons, markers, or paint; scissor or glue; box or container for time capsule

Helpful websites

Family Tree Printable Templates:

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/545639311080468142/>

<http://templatelab.com/family-tree-templates/>



Steps:

- **Step 1: Explore family stories-** There are all kinds of family stories and all kinds of families. As you explore these stories, think about these questions: How are families the same?; How are they different?; Are the families like your own? Talk about your answers with your family and Brownie friends
 - o Read 2 stories starring families. Share a video reading your favorite family story onto your troop's private Facebook page and watch another Brownie friends video; or do it on your own.
 - o Watch 1 movie or 2 different TV shows about family.
 - o Share family stories with friends. In your Brownie group, share a story about your family. Then listen to other girls' stories. You could share virtually via the video suggestion above or exchange stories via email with a Brownie friend to read.
- **Step 2: Know where your family is from-** Find out which different countries, states, or towns your family comes from. Family stories are passed down differently in different cultures. How does your family share its family traditions and history?
 - o Ask about a festival, holiday, or event. Learn why that day is special. How do people have fun on that day? Try out one highlight of the day with your family or Brownie group- perhaps a ritual, a costume, or a recipe.
 - o Ask about a song, game, or dance. Try to sing the song, play the game, or dance the dance! You could teach it to your Brownie group; make a video to share on your private troop page or have an adult help send it to a Brownie friend.
 - o Ask about a family recipe. Every place has food that is special. Ask a family member to help you make a family recipe. Share the food, or recipe, with friends.
- **Step 3: Make a story tree-** Knowing who your family members are is only half the fun! Find a special detail about each person to write on your family tree ex: the person's nickname, the person's favorite color, the person's favorite thing to eat, the person's pet, a funny story about that person, the person's favorite joke, the person's hobby. Then make your tree in one of these ways.
 - o Use the story tree. Look at Brownie Elf's story tree to see an example. Then draw your family on the story tree. Write a special detail underneath each family

member. When your troop meets next, share your family tree or make your own Troop family tree with your Brownie friends.

- Draw or paint your tree. You can choose colors, shapes, and decorate it yourself. You could use photos of your family, too!
- Use software on a computer, or from an online site. Get an adult's help.
- **Step 4: Find an object that means something to your family-** Objects like photos, jewelry, and books can mean a lot. They can be favorite things from old times, or things that make people feel special. This means that objects can have their own stories! With your family, find an object that tells a part of your family's story.
 - Ask about an old photo. Learn what was happening when the photograph was taken. Share the photo with a family member who doesn't know about them! Write or draw a story that begins or ends with that moment. Use your family members as characters.
 - Talk about an object that has been handed down. Sometimes family members pass important objects on to other family members. Learn the story behind one of these. Make a family time capsule. Include or draw pictures of important objects, photos, and family news. Be sure to decide when it will be opened.
 - Ask about an object that belongs to a far-away family member. With your family's help, call or write that relative. Ask about the story behind one of their treasured objects.
- **Step 5: Share your family story-** You've heard so many amazing family stories. Now it's time to share them with others! Pick one of these activities to help you tell your story.
 - Have a "family tree" potluck party. Every girl may share a recipe and includes a story that she's learned about her family. With an adult's help, utilize your troop's private Facebook page or GroupMe to share your recipes and stories with your Brownie friends to make and read at home with your family.
 - Make a family crest. In some countries, each family has a crest. A crest is a picture that uses colors and symbols to show what's important to the family. Think of what is important to your family, then draw your own crest. Share with your friends virtually and tell them why you drew it in just that way.
 - Become pen pals with another member of your family. Write about what you and your family are doing. You could pick someone far away, and even send photos. Make a special folder to keep copies of notes you send and notes you get. At your next family gathering, read some of your notes.

***Once completed, this badge can be purchased at the GSWESTOK Girl Scout shop for \$3.00 plus shipping. This Brownie badge can be found in the Brownie badge section under the Relationships category or visit the direct link at:**

<https://www.girlscoutshop.com/BROWNIE-MY-FAMILY-STORY-BADGE>