

ACTIVITY

1

WHO ARE YOU?

This book is about to be made

BY **YOU**

It will be your own personal history book.



Paste a picture of yourself here

Who are you really?
What is the story of your name?



Name, please:

How much do you know about your name?

Let's find out some things about it.

Write it again, your entire name

(First name)

(Middle name)

(Surname)

Do you know who gave you your name? _____

Do you know if it was someone else's name before you got it?

Have you given your name to anyone else? _____

Do you have a nickname? _____

How did you get it? _____

Some people have a name in another language (**Mi'kmaw**, **Wolastoqey**, **Passamaquoddy**) Do you?

Do you know what it means?

Take a look at other names in the family:

Mother: _____

Father: _____

Brother or Sister: _____

Some families have family symbols. For example, some families with Scottish names have a special pattern of plaid that belongs to their family name.

Some Indigenous families are part of a clan or a group that has a special talent (basket making). Does your family have any special symbols? Can you draw them and put them in this book? Or use the symbols that you created in your flag in Lesson C.



Long ago, no one had a last name.

Sometimes people would use just one English name, like 'Simon.' Then the children would use that name as a last name, like (John Simon)

Some last names have a special meaning connected to a job, or something else about the first person that used it like Armstrong, Hunter or Cook.

Some families took their last names of people in the Bible.

What can you find out about your last name? Where did it come from? What does it tell about your family?

Your family history is important because it belongs especially to your family and especially to you.

Try writing a poem about someone in your family or community who has taught you something or whom you respect. Here is an example:

My Grandfather

My grandfather is not a real rich man
My grandfather is not a real poor man
My grandfather is a rich man of wit and will.

My grandfather is not a man of many talents
My grandfather is not a man of a great family
My grandfather is a man who learned the right ways of life.

My grandfather is not a large man in size
My grandfather is not a large man in strength
My grandfather is a man with the largest of hearts.

My grandfather is a man of many different ways
My grandfather is a man of many different things
My grandfather is a man who has taken time to show me
right from wrong.
My grandfather is a man who has shown me the right ways
of life.

My grandfather is a very great man
- Derrick Coley

Where has your family lived?

Many families live in different places now from where they lived before. What different places have you lived in? What different places did you, your parents or grandparents live in?

Many families used to spend most of the year travelling between different traditional hunting, fishing and gathering grounds. Can you find out if some of your family used to live like this? Where did they travel and where were their hunting, fishing and gathering territories? Can you draw a chart that shows what your family did and where they lived in different seasons of the year?



Did your family ever live in a place where no one lives now?

Did anyone in your family come here from another province or country?

Make a map showing all the different places your family has lived in the last 50 years. You might need a map of New Brunswick, of Canada or even of the whole world!



What skills and customs did your family bring with them? Did you learn how to do any of these?

Did you learn any other skills from other people in your community? What were they?

What special skills are still used today and are found in your community?

What skills have changed a bit?

Which ones are being lost, and should be brought back again?

One reason people moved from place to place was to do seasonal kinds of work or to follow the migration of different birds and animals. Make a picture-story or cartoon showing all the different types of work people in your family have done in the last 50 years.



Many communities believe that each child comes into the world with special talents. Think of your own special talents and how you share them with your family and community. Write them down here so you can always remember the importance of your contributions to your family and community.

Have you ever made a promise to someone in your family or community? With whom? A promise is something you both agree to do or not to do in the future. It can be written down or said out loud. Sometimes it is sealed with a handshake. What is one promise you have made?

With whom? _____

Did you keep it? _____

With **Waponahki**, treaties were promises that were often made of wampum. Later the British Crown had them written down and signed. They were meant to last forever. You will read more about treaties in the next lesson.