

During the 2nd semester we will learn about world events from 1815-1945 and review the Cold War period. Talk with relatives about your family history to learn more about your family history during this time period. Use the following questions as a starting point. You may learn other information about your family that would be relevant. Try to find stories of your ancestors which involve major events of the past (see below).

Your project will be graded on the quality of your writing (spelling, punctuation, and grammar), the completeness of your research and storytelling, the accuracy of your timeline, the appropriate inclusion of graphics, the attractiveness of your poster, and how well you tell your story to the class. See the ancestry project website for more information and see past posters in the History Room.

Due Dates

- Research Paper, 1st draft Monday, March 19
- Poster Monday, April 9
- Report, final draft Friday, May 10
- Class presentations Monday – Thursday, May 14-17

Website: ancestryproject.weebly.com

Project:

- **RESEARCH PAPER** Prepare a report on your ancestors. You may focus on one branch of your family, or on two or three people from different branches of your family, or your entire family tree. This will vary depending on how much family information you are able to collect. Include in your report historical information about at least two major historical events (such as The Spanish-American War, WWI, the Great Depression, etc.) that your ancestor(s) lived through or was involved in. Cite sources. Your report should be three to five pages in length, MLA format.
- **POSTER** Create a poster of your family history. This will be displayed in the World History classroom and may be displayed at a history fair at RAA. Use either 28" x 22" poster paper or trifold science fair display boards, or something similar.
 - Required Elements
 - Timeline
 - Illustrations such as photos, maps, etc. (these may include photos of historical events – example: if your ancestor was in Hawaii at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor, you could include a photo of the attack and a map of Pearl Harbor).
 - At least one story (a condensed form of a story you write in your report)
- **CLASS PRESENTATION** Tell the class a story about one or more of your ancestors, based on your report and poster. You may also display photos, maps or other graphics in a PowerPoint if you choose to.

*To forget one's ancestors is
to be a brook without a source,
a tree without a root.*

Questions to get you started. Talk to your parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles and other family members about your family history.

1. Ask about ancestors who lived during the 19th and 20th centuries, the years of the Civil War, Spanish-American War, the Great War, 1914-1918, the Great Depression, World War II, and the Cold War. Some of you may be able to identify ancestors who lived earlier.
2. Where did they live?
3. Describe what you know about their lives: education, occupations, interests, etc.
4. Do you know any family stories about immigrating to the U.S. or of life during the late 19th century and early 20th century?
5. Did any of them serve in the Spanish-American War, the Great War or World War II, The Korean War, or any other conflicts of this time period?
6. Do you have any family stories of the Great War or World War II or other conflicts or major events?
7. Do you have family stories that connect with other major events of the 20th century? These could include the Great Depression, the Civil Rights Movement in the U.S., life in a communist nation, the partition of India and Pakistan, etc.
8. Do any of your ancestors have interesting life experiences that you could learn more about?