

Family History Dictionary

Ancestor - an ancestor is someone in your direct family line: your parents, your grandparents, your great- grandparents and so on back through the generations. Sometimes people say 'ancestors' when they mean anyone on their family tree but only some people on the family tree are your ancestors.

Birth family - this is sometimes called your biological family. These are the people who created you. Not everyone lives with their birth family.

Family - the people who care for you and their relatives.

Family tree - a diagram that shows who the members of your family are and how they are related. You might like to watch this video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wdM1Rx0HdI>

Genealogist - a genealogist is a family history detective. They look for clues to find out about the history of their family. They want to know who their ancestors were and to discover stories about their lives. They also find out about the places where their ancestors lived and discover what their lives were like.

Generation - people who are close to each other in age. You and your siblings and cousins are all in the same generation. Your parents and aunts and uncles are another generation. Your grandparents belong to a third generation. People in the same generation, should be next to each other on a family tree.

Half-brother or half-sister - you share one of your parents with your half-brothers and sisters.

Heirlooms - special treasures that your family keeps because they tell a story about your family.

Pedigree - this is a posh word for a family tree.

Relatives or Relations - members of your family.

Sibling - a brother or sister.

Step-brother or step-sister - step-brothers and sisters are part of your family but you have different parents.