

The H.O.T. Spot

By Jason S. McIntosh, Ph.D.

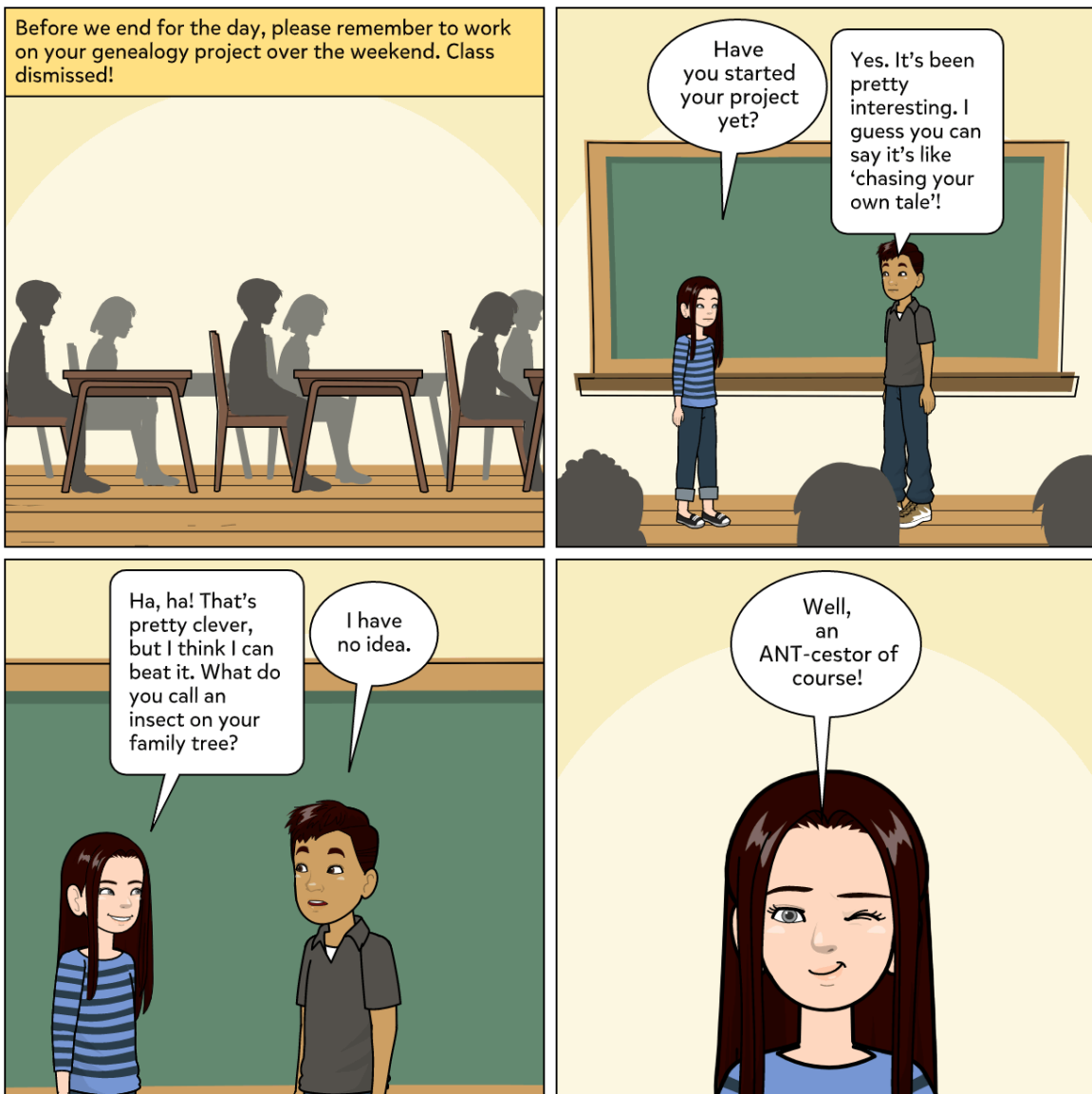
A WEEKLY PUBLICATION FOR CURIOUS KIDS

Issue #12 (September 16, 2020)

CAUTION: Participation may lead to a lack of boredom and a tired brain!

FEATURED TOPIC THIS WEEK:

Genealogy: Exploring Your Past





Genealogy: Exploring Your Past

Did You Know?

Every year our nation celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15th to October 15th. It is dedicated to celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of Americans who can trace their ancestors to Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, or Central and South America. It has been celebrated since 1968 when President Johnson first initiated it. Other important celebrations throughout the year include Black History Month in February, Women's History Month in March, etc.

Help Wanted

A person who researches family histories is called a *genealogist*. While many people enjoy doing this as a hobby, some individuals do this for a living.

Requirements

- Join the Association for Professional Genealogists
- Prepare and apply for certification

Necessary Skills

- An interest in the past
- Strong research skills
- Patience and attention to details

Daily Tasks

- Visit libraries and courthouses to view records
- Network with other genealogists
- Read genealogical journals or attend workshops

Bio-Profile



Eric Schubert is known as a genealogy whiz kid. He started exploring genealogy when he was 10. Now 18, he has helped over 1,000 people find out about their pasts. CBS recently featured a story about him. You can watch it by clicking the word 'link' here → [LINK](#)

Mystery Picture of the Week

What is this place and why is it special?
After doing your research, turn your paper upside down to check your answer.



This is Ellis Island off the coast of New York City. Millions of immigrants came into this country after first passing through the doors of these buildings. It was in operation from 1892-1954.

Virtual Field Trip

How to Visit Your Ancestors Hometown Virtually:

www.familysearch.org/blog/en/virtual-tour-ancestors-hometown/

Would You Rather

Research your family history by walking through a graveyard to look at headstones OR visit the town archives and skim through books?



What do you think the featured topic should be next week? Email your teacher with your thoughts.

Project-Based Bonanza

Choose one or more of the projects below to complete this week.

CHOICE A

Choose one of the templates at the following website and create your own family tree.

www.archives.gov/education/family-history



CHOICE B

Genetics is the study of how certain traits are passed down from parents to children over time. Hair color and height are two examples. Families, both those we are born into and those we choose, can also pass down traditions and stories. Make a collection of family traditions and stories that have been passed on to you. Choose one to share with a friend.

CHOICE C

Paleontologists use a different type of family tree when studying dinosaurs. They are called *cladograms*. You can view a dinosaur cladogram by clicking the word 'link' here → [LINK](#)

How are cladograms for dinosaurs different from and similar to family trees for humans?



Cliff Hangers

I've started a story. You finish it!

Have you ever imagined what it would be like to be royalty? Well, I just found out. The other day, I received an official looking letter in the mail from an address I did not recognize. Opening the letter, I was shocked at what I read.

Dear Relative,

On behalf of the royal crown of _____, we are writing to inform you that you are fourth in line to the throne. It appears that recent genealogical evidence that has come to light has confounded past notions of our royal lineage. We will be in touch soon with additional information.

Sincerely,

Aid to the King and Queen

Needless to say, I was in shock, but this was nothing compared to what happened next. The very next day....

Brain Teaser of the Week

Can you figure out this riddle?

In which way would you mother's brother's brother-in-law be related to you?

Digging Into Depth and Complexity

In past issues, we have learned about the Kaplan Depth and Complexity Model icons *unanswered questions, ethics, change over time, rules, trends, multiple perspectives, patterns, details, and language of the disciplines*. Another important icon is **big ideas**.



This icon stands for what is most important about something. You can think of it as the main idea or headline that would summarize a much longer story. A few of the big ideas explored through genealogy are 'Who am I?', 'Where do I come from?', and 'What is my heritage?'

Think about the experiences you have had in your life up until today. Create a time line of at least five major events. What would you say is one or more big ideas that would summarize these experiences? Next, mentally time-travel ten years into the future. What do you hope the big idea or headline for your life will be then? Have fun and dream big!