

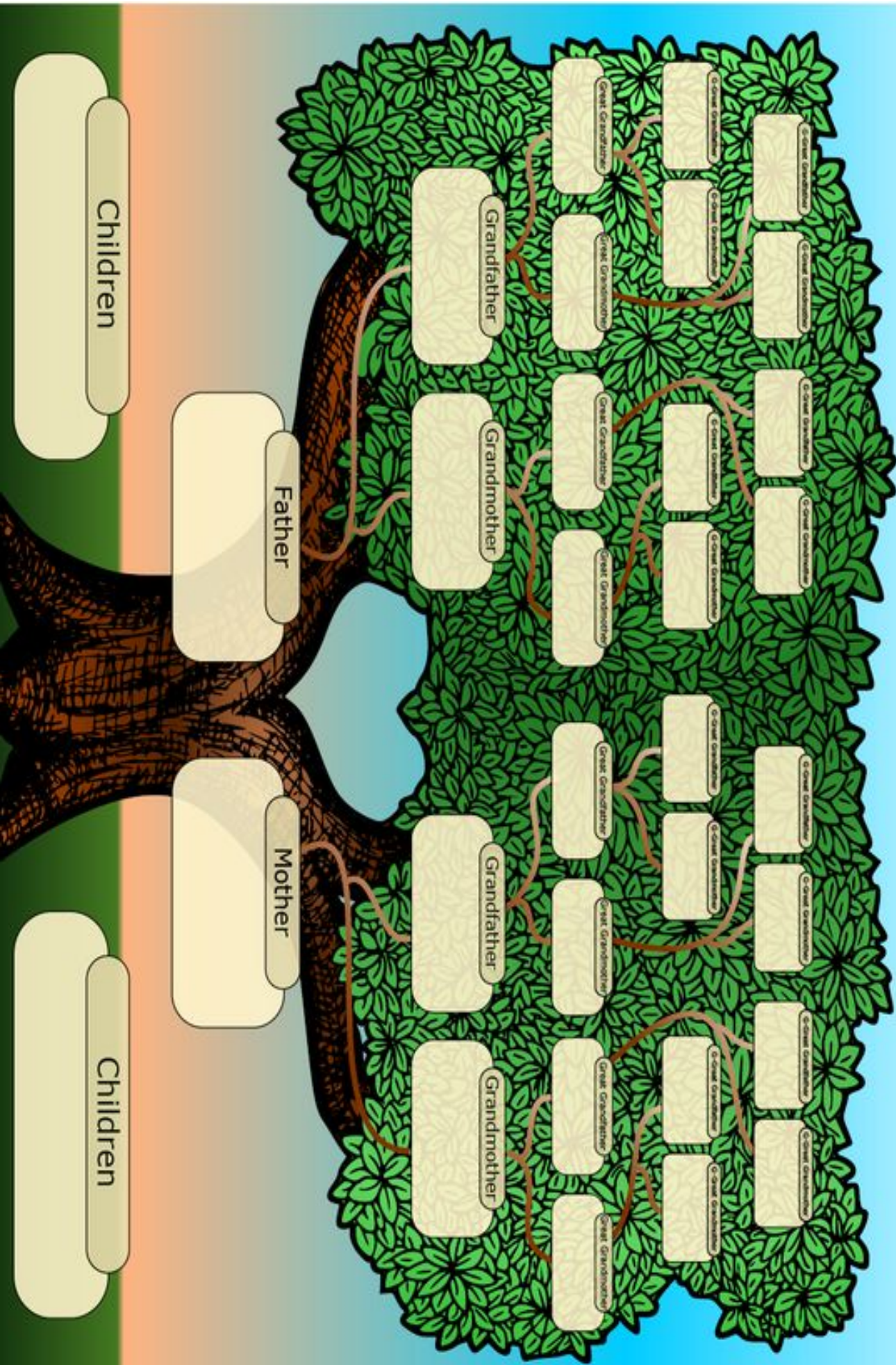
# Collecting Oral Histories

**What are oral histories?** An Oral History is a historical account that is told aloud in a person's own words. It is a record of their personal memories that they share with an interviewer. When these memories are recorded or written down, they become a historical document. Would **you** like to be a historian? You can create a historical document by interviewing a grandparent or another person in your community!



**Why are oral histories important?** It is very important to hear and record the personal experiences of everyday people. By asking questions, historians can gain a behind-the-scenes perspective on important events, like weather disasters or life during wartime. Oral historians have also attempted to record the viewpoints of underrepresented groups, such as Native

Americans or slaves. Our grandparents are wonderful resources for learning what everyday life was like without our modern technology and conveniences. For some great examples of interview questions, check out the next page!



Children

Father

Mother

Children



# EXPLORING FAMILY HERITAGE :

**The Stories, Legends, Histories, and  
Customs that Make Us Who We Are**

**Grandma (or Grandpa), please tell me a story...**

You can learn about customs and traditions of your family and heritage by asking your grandparents or great-grandparents to tell you what life was like when they were growing up.

Use this sheet to write down their answers to your questions.....  
Here are some examples:

What is your birth date? \_\_\_\_\_

Where were you born? \_\_\_\_\_

What types of games did you play as a child? \_\_\_\_\_

What toys did you play with? \_\_\_\_\_

What was your favorite candy when you were my age? \_\_\_\_\_

How were birthdays celebrated back then? \_\_\_\_\_

What places did you go when you were a child? \_\_\_\_\_

Who was your favorite relative growing up?

Tell me about him/her. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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