

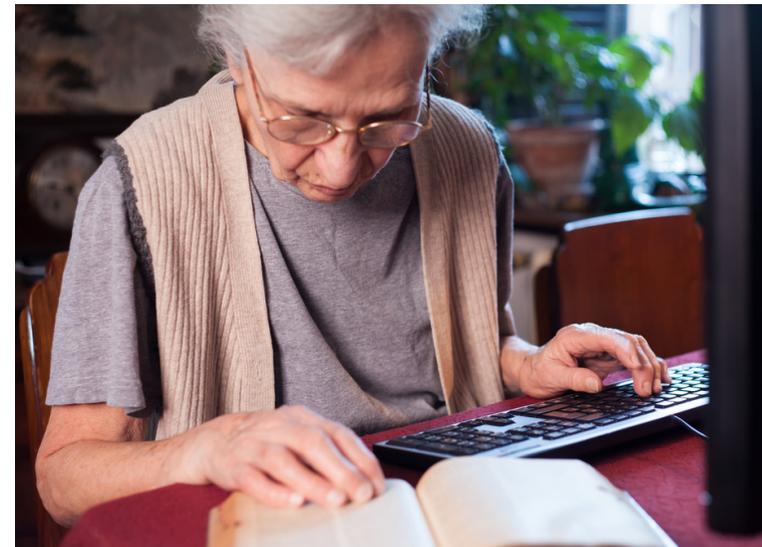
## Taster session

### About the session:

For those who want to research their family history - the internet is a useful place to start. If you have a learner who can't think of any hobbies they want to research online try suggesting family history as a topic.

### Audience

This session is aimed at those unfamiliar with computers and is designed to inspire people to get online. The example session plan encourages people to sign up to further **Be Connected** sessions and courses, but this taster session might be of interest to more experienced learners too.



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## Things to try

Here are six examples of websites that you can use in your session. We will show you how you can use one of these in the example session but you can use these ideas as a follow up or even an extension if you want to give a longer session.

**Who Do You Think You Are?** [www.sbs.com.au/programs/who-do-you-think-you-are](http://www.sbs.com.au/programs/who-do-you-think-you-are)

Get inspired by celebrities tracing their own histories with clips from the TV show 'Who Do You Think You Are?'

**The National Archives** [www.naa.gov.au/collection/family-history](http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/family-history)

This site is home to thousands of records which you can search in order to discover more about your ancestors, especially if they migrated to Australia in the 20th Century or served in the Australian armed forces.

# Family history

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**The National Library** [www.nla.gov.au/research-guides/family-history](http://www.nla.gov.au/research-guides/family-history)

The Library's collections offer a wealth of resources for researching family history including marriage records and passenger records.

**Historypin** [www.historypin.com](http://www.historypin.com)

Explore photographs of where you or your family grew up, or add your own photographs and memories to share with the wider world.

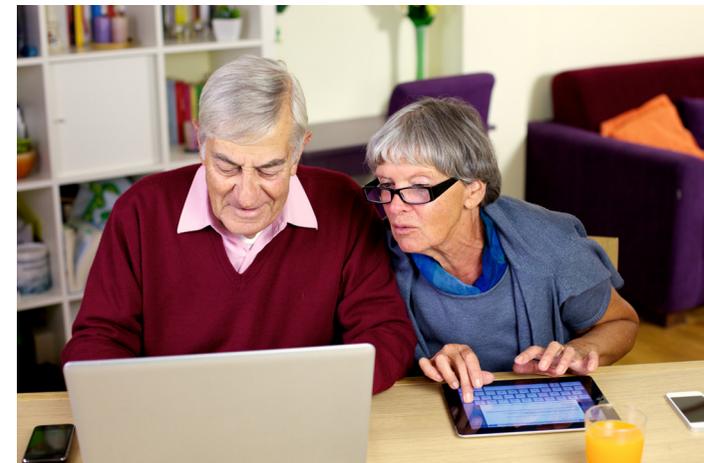
**Ancestry** [www.ancestry.com.au](http://www.ancestry.com.au)

On this site you can search for your ancestors online by entering the names you already know, as well as storing your family tree online, so you can refer back to it later.

You do have to pay for extended use of the site but there's a 14-day free trial so learners can give it a go to see if they like it.

**Local history** [www.google.com.au](http://www.google.com.au)

Find your local library online, and see what information they hold about your local area, or you can search google to find any local history fairs in your area.



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## What to consider

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be advised that some of the websites used as part of the Family history taster session may contain images and voices of deceased people.

For learners who are completely new to computers and the internet, some of the websites listed above may be difficult to navigate. Make sure that you're on hand to support learners during the session, or you could pair learners together with different confidence and ability levels.

## Information

Some people attending the session may want to go further and explore some of the courses at your centre, be sure to have information about the sessions you offer and the availability before you start.

## Delivering a session

Here is an example on how to run your session using [Historypin](#) as a suggested activity. The session plan is designed to be flexible, so feel free to adapt examples to your learners needs. This example session runs for 30 minutes.

Activity	Timing
Introduce yourself, and explain what you'll be asking the learners to do during the session.	5 minutes
Here you will demonstrate how to search for local history using History Pin.  Go through the steps of finding your town or city on the map and look through the pictures.  If you live in a more rural area, there maybe fewer pinned locations on Historypin - try zooming out until more pins become visible or look for a nearby town or city that your learners have a personal or historical connection to.	5 minutes
Ask learners to search: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Their childhood town.</li><li>• The place that their parents or grandparents grew up.</li><li>• Change the year settings</li></ul>	10 minutes

Activity	Timing
<p>Get learners to think about areas they would need more support for if they wanted to do the activity again on their own.</p> <p>Take time at the end of the session to explain the Be Connected sessions that you offer, including the topics that are relevant to what they have just learned. Here are a few that may be of interest to the learners but you can also use other examples if they are suitable.</p>	10 mins



## Next steps with **Be Connected**...

**Using search engines** Learners who are interested in researching their family history may benefit a session about search engines to help them find even more information about their ancestors.

**Research your family history** This course on the **Be Connected** website will help learners to explore their family history and discover their ancestry.

**Watching and listening online** This course from **Be Connected** will teach learners to access catch-up TV services like ABC iView and SBS OnDemand. Learners with an interest in history might find programmes to inspire them!

