

GEM Round-up

Family Trees for Kids (7-10)

Query: Has anyone discovered an interesting and fun way to present family trees to 7-10 year olds? (Tehmina Goskar).

Responses

1. This was more of a family craft session - I bought ready cut paper people shapes from Baker Ross and made a really cool family tree mobile by threading wool through straws (extra strong long cocktail straws so that they don't bend under the weight) to make levels in the tree, starting at the top with grandparents and with the kid and siblings at the bottom. Some kids made each person look like that family member. Some used fabric offcuts and tissue to give them collage clothes (Annette McCartney, Education Development Officer, Firepower, The Royal Artillery Museum).

2. I am working on creating a London Underground map family tree. The circle line is the child's immediate family and then there are lines off of that for each parent member. We are also adding a line for significant places for that family such as where the family have lived and or moved to/from (Nic Abery).

3. An actual tree sounds lovely – leaves on branches to represent the old lines etc. (Kirsty Sullivan, Programme Manager (Schools), Museum of London Docklands).

4. There's quite a lot of imaginative tree-like trees in various churches and other places e.g. [here](#). I would just show a wide range & ask the kids to use their imagination! (One thing to plan for is the fact that many kids today have 'complicated' trees with many dads and uncles etc.. What is 'family'? Maybe 'ancestor tree' is more accurate and less loaded. There are social & emotional as well as practical implications here. It can be a minefield! Try it out first on a small group who already have your confidence and ask them what they think.)

I personally like [fancharts](#) as they show what data is missing, as well as what data you have (John Bibby).

5. I've used variations on an actual tree for EYFS, 8-9yrs and mixed groups of 6-12yrs. The one all the children liked best was an actual branch with the central character on the central stem and the others hung from the twigs on leaf shapes.

Most of them have seen the ancestry tree advert! (Annie Harris).

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6. I think a really big tree would be magical...parcel labels tied on with names or stories....yup definitely good (Alison Shepherd, Education Support Officer, National Mining Museum Scotland).

7. I had thought of a wooden interactive jigsaw-like puzzle made in the shape of a tree. But am still giving it more thought (Dee Matthews, Learning and Access Officer, Lotherton Hall).

8. I did a family workshop some years ago where we made a 3d tree and wrote the names of family members on leaves that we stuck on. I might be able to find a photo somewhere if you're interested in having a look (Claire Driver).