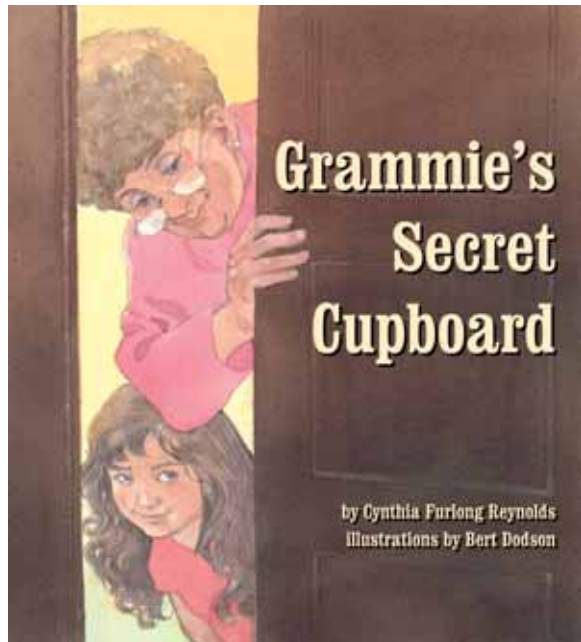


# Grammie's Secret Cupboard



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## Teacher and Parent Guide



Created by Emily Sterling

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# Family Crest



In the story *Grammie's Secret Cupboard*, the little girl learns a lot about her family by visiting with her grandmother. This activity gives you a chance to learn about your family, where they originally came from, and any special traditions that are associated with your family history.

## Background:

Family crests are a way that families artistically represent their family histories and lives. Some things that may be included in a family crest are:

- Flags from the country/countries that your family originally came from
- Pictures of family celebrations
- Pictures of common food, music, or other traditions
- Drawings that show favorite family events such as reunions and other get-togethers
- Drawings that represent first and/or last names

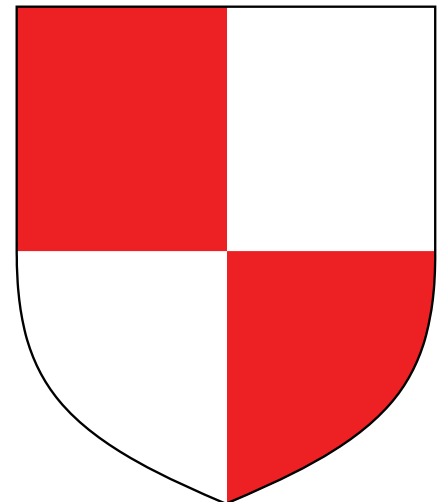
In order to find out this information, it will be very important for you to chat with family members, both close and distant. Also, a good way to discover family history information is to search your family name on the internet!

## Materials Needed:

- An large piece of construction paper or poster board
- Pictures
- Crayons, markers, and pencils
- Glue

## Directions:

1. On the large sheet of paper, draw a shape that resembles a shield.
2. Divide the shape into sections, one section for each piece of information you plan to include on your crest.
3. In each section, draw a picture that represents one idea about your family. If you have real pictures, glue them onto your crest. Or, use the computer to draw and/or find pictures that would represent your family history.
4. Beneath each section of the crest, write a sentence or two telling the significance of that section and the meaning it has to your family.
5. Hang your family crest on the wall and share it with your family!



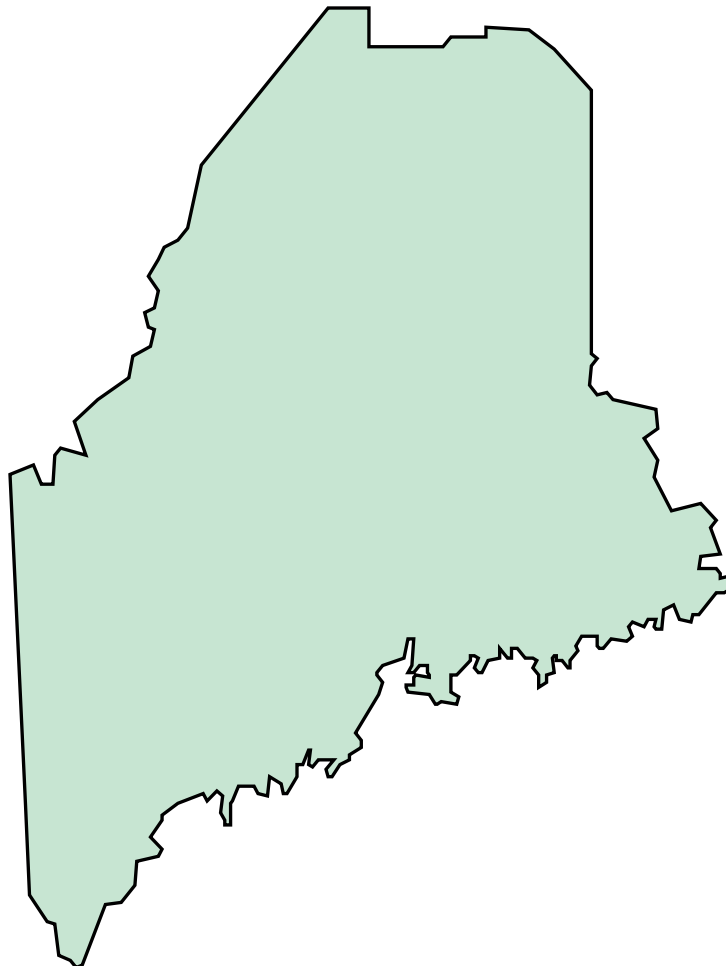
# Getting to Know Maine



The setting for the story *Grammie's Secret Cupboard* is in the great state of Maine. Below are some fun facts about the state. In this activity, you will create a book that includes facts about the state of Maine. Use the internet to search for more facts and add them into your book. Keep your book and if you ever know someone who is going to visit Maine, you can give them this book before they go!

## Directions:

1. Read through the information and learn some neat information about Maine.
2. Create a title page for your book.
3. There are several facts about Maine on the pages following. Using the internet, find 3 more interesting facts about Maine to fill in the remaining page.
4. Decorate each page with a drawing or picture of the fact.
5. Cut out the pages and staple the book together.
6. Share with someone who may visit Maine.



**Getting to Know Maine**  
(continued)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

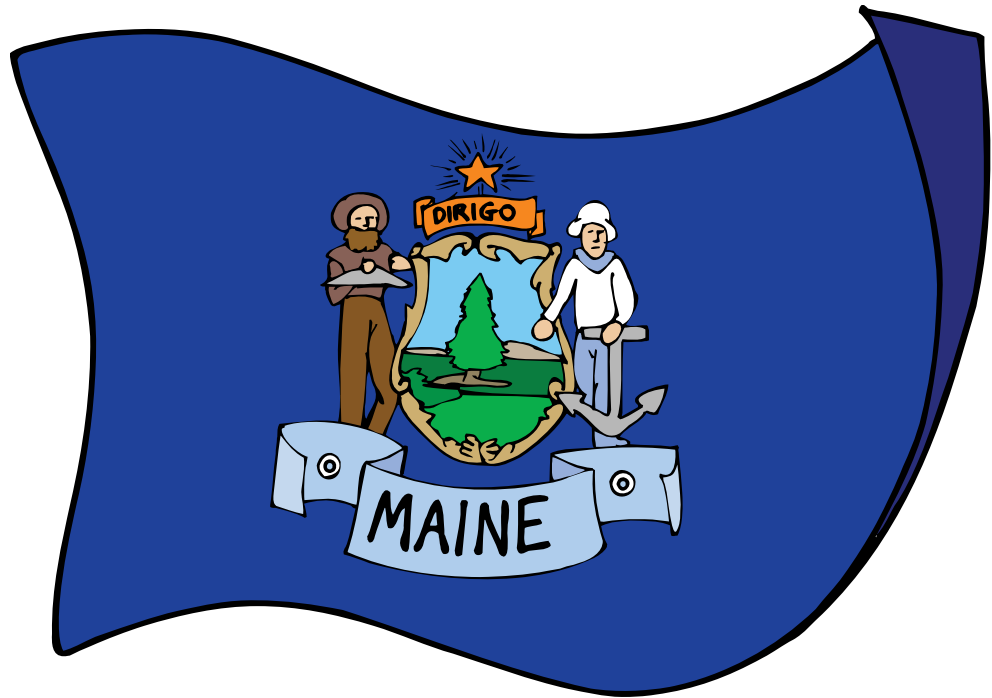
*A Book About Maine*

# Getting to Know Maine

(continued)



State Flag — The state motto Dirigo means “I lead.”



# Getting to Know Maine

(continued)



## State Animal — Moose

Facts about moose:

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

Draw a picture of a moose:

# Getting to Know Maine

(continued)



## State Insect — Honeybee

Facts about honeybees:

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

Draw a picture of a honeybee:

# Getting to Know Maine

(continued)



## State Tree — White Pine

Facts about white pines:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_

## State Bird — Chickadee

Facts about chickadees:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_

Draw a picture of a chickadee perching in a white pine tree:

# Getting to Know Maine

(continued)



## Additional Maine Facts:

How many more facts can you find about Maine?

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_

6) \_\_\_\_\_

7) \_\_\_\_\_

8) \_\_\_\_\_

9) \_\_\_\_\_

10) \_\_\_\_\_

11) \_\_\_\_\_

12) \_\_\_\_\_

13) \_\_\_\_\_

14) \_\_\_\_\_

15) \_\_\_\_\_

16) \_\_\_\_\_

# Grammie's Special-Day Molasses Cookies



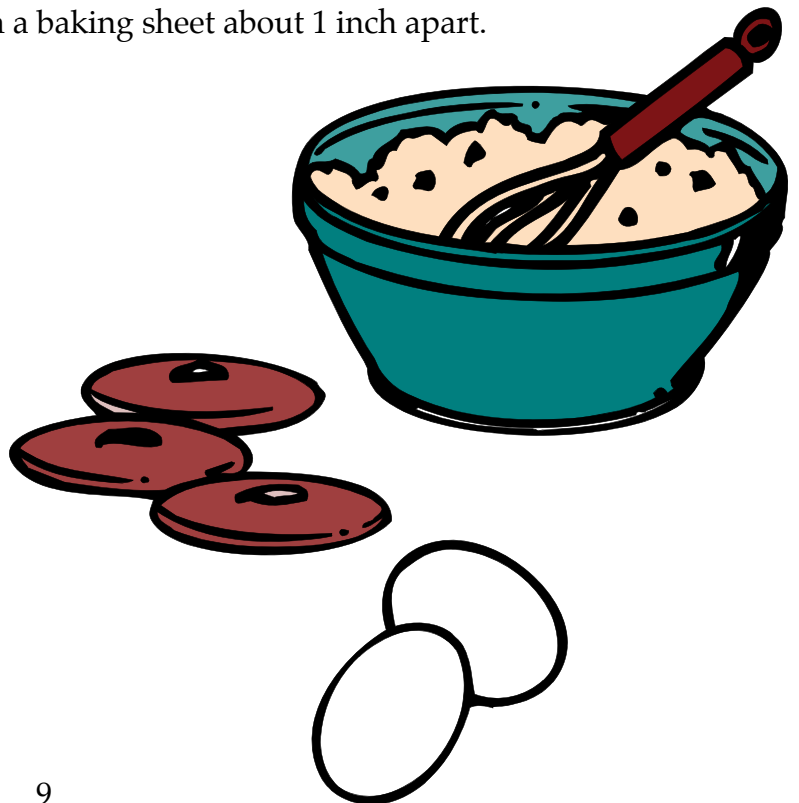
In the story, Grammie's house always smells like warm molasses cookies. With the help of an adult (maybe your grandma!) follow the recipe and make your very own molasses cookies!

## Ingredients:

- 2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon salt
- $\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  sticks butter, at room temperature
- 1 cup dark brown sugar
- 1 egg
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup molasses

## Directions:

1. Stir together the flour, baking soda, salt, ginger, cinnamon and cloves. Set aside.
2. With an electric mixer, beat vanilla, butter, brown sugar, egg, and molasses together. Stir in the dry ingredients.
3. Wrap the dough in waxed paper and chill in the fridge for an hour.
4. Preheat the oven to 350°.
5. Roll the dough into little balls and place on a baking sheet about 1 inch apart.
6. Bake for 12-15 minutes.
7. Enjoy!



# A Family Interview



At the end of the story *Grammie's Secret Cupboard*, the family members discovered interesting information about their Grammie from each other. It can be very fun to learn about your family. This activity lets you act like a journalist and interview a family member in order to learn fascinating stories about your family genealogy. Be sure to get good information because it will be used in the next activity as well. Good luck!

## Directions:

- Choose at least one family member (or as many as you would like).
- Plan a time to interview this person.
- Get a notebook where you can write the information that you discover.
- Use the following questions to guide your interview. Remember, you are trying to get as much family history information as possible!

## Helpful hints about interviewing:

- Always start your interview with the date
- Write where and when you conducted your interview
- Get first and last names with the correct spelling for everyone
- Start with these questions:
  1. What is your whole name? Correct spelling? (Include maiden names)
  2. How old are you?
  3. When and where were you born?
  4. Who were your parents?
  5. How many siblings did you have?
  6. Were you the first, last, middle baby?
  7. How many children did you have?
  8. Do you have any pictures?



# A Family Interview

(continued)



This information will help for the next activity. However, if you want to extend your research, ask the following life story interview questions.

1. Do you know any stories about your family history?
2. What was your home like?
3. What was school like for you?
4. What were holidays like?
5. Did you have any family traditions; any pets?
6. What are funny/sad things that happened to you?
7. Who were your special friends?
8. What was the most memorable thing that happened in your life?
9. What were the best times of your life; the hardest? Why?
10. What jobs did you have?
11. What are your greatest accomplishments?
12. Who has been your favorite American president? Least favorite?
13. What was the best advice you ever received?
14. How do you feel about the times we live in now?
15. How would you like to be remembered?

If you are still interested, there are many great family genealogy web sites where you can find out even more information about your family history.



# Family Tree



After interviewing a family member, use the answers from the first set of questions to create a family tree. A family tree is made by starting from a relative and branching out to detail how your family came about. Include living and deceased people along with step-families. Include any family photos alongside the person.

## Materials:

- Large piece of paper, could use rolled paper such as plain wrapping paper
- Crayons/markers/pencils
- Family photos (optional)

## Directions:

1. On the paper, draw a large outline of a tree. (The size of your tree will be directly correlated to the size of your family.)
2. Decide on one relative or a married couple to begin.
3. Continue making your family tree by branching out the people and how they are related.
4. Add family photos, if you would like.

# Family Time Poster



Family time is very important to Grammie in the story *Grammie's Secret Cupboard*. She shows this by spending time with her grandchildren and giving each child a very special gift from her secret cupboard.

How does your family spend time together? Some families go on family vacations; others have holidays together; while others have one night weekly where everyone gets together for dinner.

In this activity, you will create a poster that shows how your family enjoys spending time together.

## Materials:

- 1 piece of poster board
- Crayons/markers
- Family photos
- Cut-outs from magazines that show family activities

## Directions:

1. Make a list of different ways your family spends time together.
2. Look for photos or pictures in magazines that can resemble the activities.
3. Put a title saying "Family Time" on the piece of poster board.
4. Glue the photos or pictures onto the poster board.
5. Write a sentence telling how each picture resembles time that your family spends together.



# A Day at the Beach

## Math Activities



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Solve the following math problems.

1. As Betsy walks down the beach, she finds 17 white seashells, 13 gray seashells and 16 brown seashells. How many seashells does she find in all?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Grammie made 30 miniature egg salad sandwiches to take to the beach. Throughout the day, Grammie ends up giving away 22 of the miniature sandwiches. How many sandwiches are left?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Grammie and Betsy go to the beach at 10:15 in the morning. At 2:35 in the afternoon it starts to rain and they have to go home. How much time did Grammie and Betsy spend at the beach?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Betsy brings one of her Grammie's special strawberry pies to the beach. While there,  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the pie gets eaten. How much does Betsy take home with her?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. There are 10 sand buckets sitting on the beach. Five children come along to play with them. How many sand buckets will each child get?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. A little boy is making a sand castle that has 3 floors. If the little boy makes 5 windows on each floor, how many windows will the sand castle have?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. At the beach Grammie gets thirsty and goes to the vending machine to get a drink. She buys a water that costs \$1.00 and a soda that costs \$1.25. How much is the total for the drinks?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. If Grammie pays with a \$5.00 bill, how much change will she receive?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Missing Vowel Search



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the missing vowels for each word to make words from the story.

c\_\_pb\_\_\_\_rd

M\_\_\_\_n\_\_

l\_\_m\_\_n\_\_d\_\_

s\_\_cr\_\_t

Gr\_\_mm\_\_\_\_

b\_\_\_\_ch

f\_\_gh\_\_rn

st\_\_r\_\_\_\_s

p\_\_r\_\_t\_\_s

wr\_\_t\_\_r



# Design a Book



The book that Grammie made for the little girl in the story was homemade. You can make your own book just as easily. You will need to gather a few materials, and after that you are on your way. Maybe you, too, will be a writer when you grow up!

## Materials:

- 2 pieces of cardboard
- Cutouts from magazines or catalogs
- Colored paper
- 3-hole punch
- Yarn

## Directions:

1. Use a 3-hole punch to punch holes in the cardboard and paper.
2. Decorate the pieces of cardboard.
3. Place the paper in between the 2 pieces of cardboard. Match up the holes that you punched.
4. Use the yarn to tie the book together. Tie the yarn tightly.
5. Start writing your stories in your book!



# Answer Key



## A Day at the Beach Math

1. 46 seashells in all
2. 8 sandwiches left
3. 4 hours 20 minutes at the beach
4.  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the pie to take home
5. 2 buckets each
6. 15 windows in all
7. \$2.25 for the drinks
8. \$2.75 left

## Missing Vowel Search

cupboard  
Maine  
lemonade  
secret  
Grammie  
beach  
foghorn  
stories  
pirates  
writer

