



Exploring Your Regional History

You're on a Quest!

After viewing the QUEST Archaeology video, you will be exploring some Web sites (see Resources) that have information about the history and culture of your area. You may also want to consulting some historians or other professionals in your town or city to conduct your research. As a final product, you can create a scrapbook of the “personalized community history” of your region. In this scrapbook you can put copies of facts, maps, and pictures that you have collected during your research. Be sure to include family members and friends in this project!

1. Begin by looking at some maps of your area. In particular, view some historic topographical maps. Identify what has changed since the time these maps were made; also identify what remains the same. What new roads have been put in, and which (if any) have been removed? Can you see how many houses were located along main streets then? Tour the area now, and count how many more houses there are.
2. Look at what is known about the paleoecology of your region. See how the environment has changed over the past 12,000 years or more.
3. Examine a map of Native American cultures in your region. Which tribe, or tribes, settled in your area? Research how these Native Americans lived, what each tribe's houses were like, how the tribe hunted, and what types of clothing and tools they used. Do any of these tribes still live in your area?
4. Look for more recent historic sites in your region. Who lived there and why are they famous? Go visit a site. Find out what was happening in the world at the time that the structure was occupied.
5. Find some descriptions of your community's history. Does your town or city have a historical society or association? Does this institution keep artifacts of the ancient cultures that lived in your area? Are there resources you might be able to look at or read?
6. Talk with one of the families who has lived in your area for many generations. Explore their family history by asking some of the following questions:
 - Where did your family come from? When did they arrive in this area?
 - What are some stories about this area that have been handed down from generation to generation?
 - How has your family's way of life changed over the generations?
 - Do you have any pictures of the area from an earlier time period?

If you are able to look at old photographs or other artwork, try to show how people dressed differently in earlier times.

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