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Genealogy

READING

LEVEL
Advanced

NUMBER
C1_1055R_EN

LANGUAGE
English

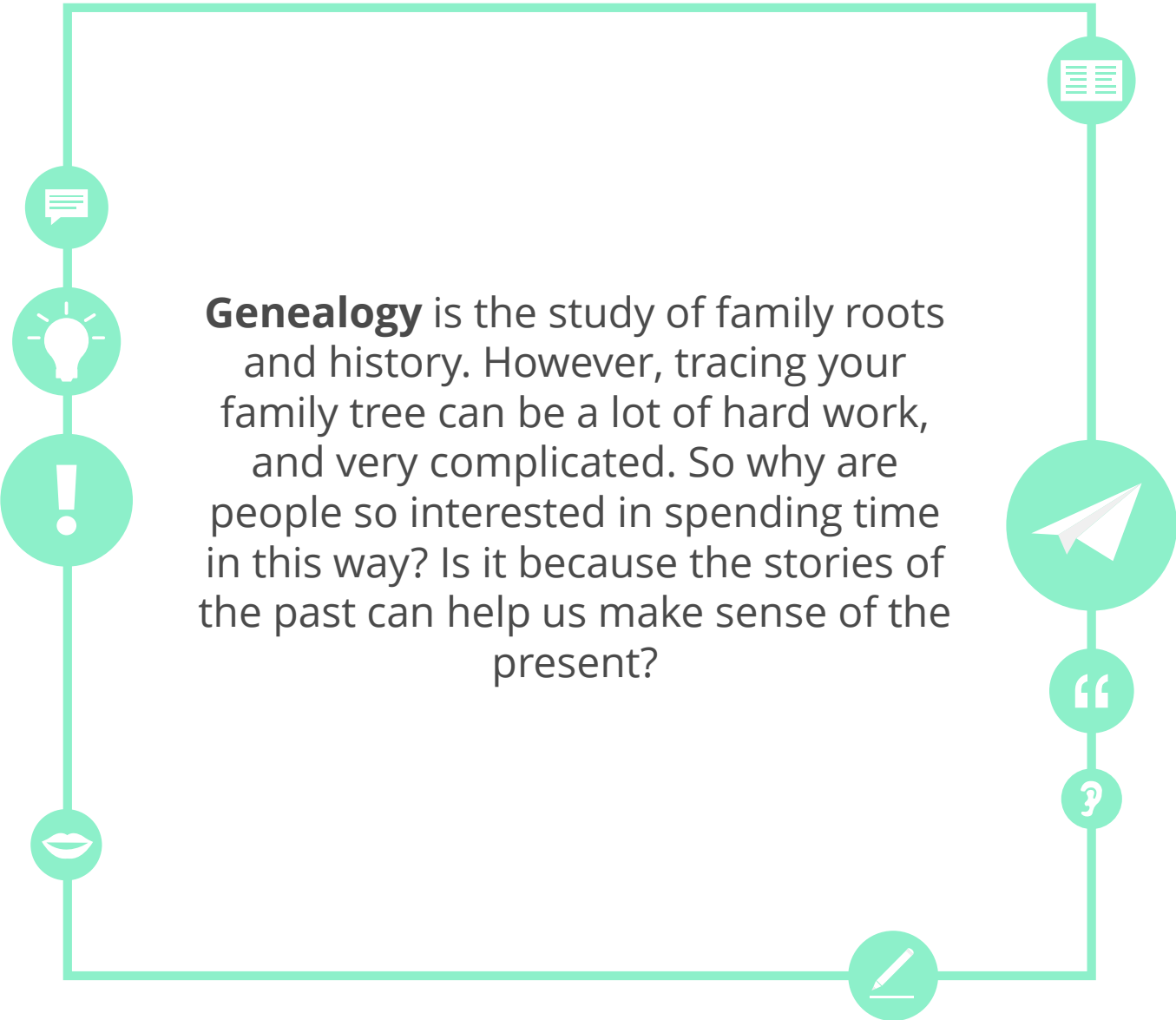




Goals

- Can read and understand a challenging text about genealogy.
- Can confidently maintain a discussion on genealogy and present my own opinion on personal identity.





Genealogy is the study of family roots and history. However, tracing your family tree can be a lot of hard work, and very complicated. So why are people so interested in spending time in this way? Is it because the stories of the past can help us make sense of the present?



Genealogy

How do you feel about genealogy? Do you think it sounds like an interesting hobby? Explain your answer.



Important families

Genealogy is the study of family history. Think about your home country. Are there any famous families there? Tell your teacher about them. Do you know anything about famous families around the world?





Who am I?

Together with your teacher,
each think of a famous
person from the past or
present but keep your
identity a secret from each
other.

Ask each other questions to
reveal your identity. The
first to guess correctly is the
winner!





Genealogy

Do you know much about your family history? Have you ever tried to trace your family tree? If you've ever been curious to find out more about past generations of your family then perhaps genealogy is a hobby you might like to pick up. Genealogy is the study of family roots, lineage and history.

Genealogy isn't a recent trend; throughout the ages people have always been fascinated by their origins and interested in knowing more about their ancestors. However, until more recent times genealogy was largely a pursuit confined to the wealthy upper classes and aristocracy. Such individuals were especially keen to prove their family history in order to legitimise their claims to wealth and power. In recent years the appeal of genealogy has widened, and the subject has become of interest to ordinary, everyday families. Its popularity has probably been bolstered by a spate of successful TV shows and books about the hobby which have attracted large mainstream audiences and fuelled people's desire to do some family digging and sleuthing of their own.



Vocabulary review

to trace

generation

roots

sleuths

to fuel a desire

aristocracy



Your family history

**What do you
know about
your own
family history?**



generations



stories



Families in power

Think about your own country and other countries around the world. Does any particular family often have a lot of power that you can think of? Why is this? Do you think it is fair? What does popular opinion say?



TV and popularity

The text mentions a spate of TV shows and books which caused genealogy to spike in popularity.



1

Can you think of other examples of TV shows or books inspiring a trend?

2

Do you think that the TV shows and books inspire the trend, or does the trend inspire the materials? In other words...was it the chicken or the egg?!

3

Do you typically succumb to popular trends? Can you give an example of one?



Genealogy

With the growth and development of the internet, there has perhaps never been a better time to become an amateur genealogist. Gone are the days of having to spend long hours combing through dusty records in the corner of a dark library room in order to find out where your forgotten great-great-grandfather lived. Nowadays, many public records such as birth, death and marriage certificates, as well as newspaper and old magazine articles can be found online. However, despite the advantages offered by modern technology, tracing back your family tree still isn't an easy task; any information you find has to be carefully checked and verified to be sure of your results. So perhaps the real question is, why are people still so endlessly fascinated with this pursuit?



Genealogy

For some people there are particular practical reasons for wanting to know more about their lineage. For example, we now know that certain medical conditions can be genetic, so knowing your family medical history can be helpful as you can find out which illnesses and conditions you might be susceptible to in order to take early preventative action. Also on a more practical level, genealogy is still sometimes needed to trace distant heirs and correctly distribute inheritance.



Vocabulary review

an amateur

to comb through
something

dusty

genetic

to trace something
back

inheritance



Genealogy is fun!

Imagine you work in the marketing department for a company that promotes genealogy. Look at the people below, how would you target your marketing to these groups? What reasons might make them take up genealogy?



history



family



Technology's influence

In what ways has technology influenced genealogy? Think about your own hobbies and share them with your teacher. How have they changed over time? Has technology affected them?





Thinking about the past and future

How far back can you trace your family? Think about how much has changed since then. What things do you think someone from the past would find most surprising about present day life? Are our lives then and now really so vastly different?



Genealogy

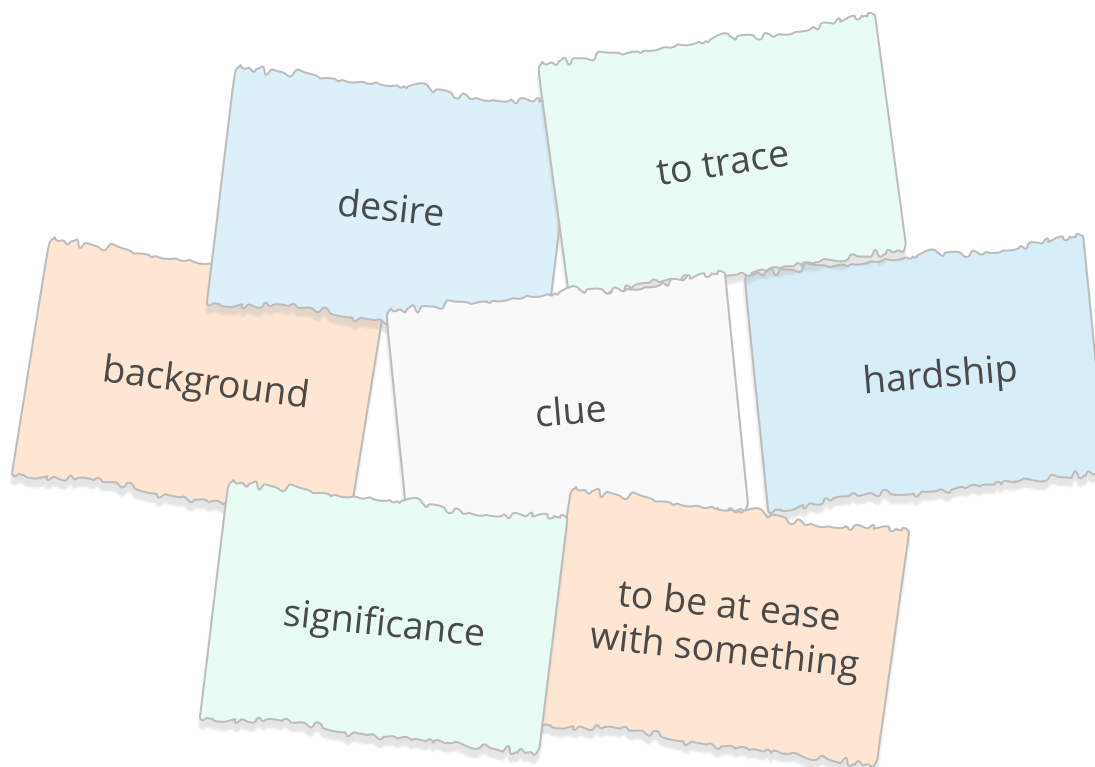
For a lot of people the desire to trace their roots and find out more about their background is fuelled by a more personal need to understand their own identity. By looking to the past we can get some clues that helps us to better understand the present. Looking at where we came from helps us to find our place in the present moment.

Discovering the hardships and difficulties that our ancestors had to struggle with can be very motivating and inspiring, or realising that our past was greatly influenced by certain historical events can make things that seemed like just a story suddenly take on much more significance in our lives. Genealogy is also, in some ways, a comforting sort of hobby. Through tracing our family history we see connections to other people in the past and the present, and to the world around us, and this can help us to feel more at ease with our place on earth, and in the here and now, and to have more hope for the future.



Vocabulary review

Look at these words and phrases from the text. Check the meaning with your teacher and then use each one in a new sentence.





Summarise

Look at the sentence below from the text. Use it to help you summarise in your own words the most important points of the last passage you read.

“

By looking to the past we can get some clues that helps us to better understand the present.

”



Big question

Is it true? Are our pasts key to understanding our identity today? Or should we live in the present moment and not dwell on things we cannot change? Discuss.

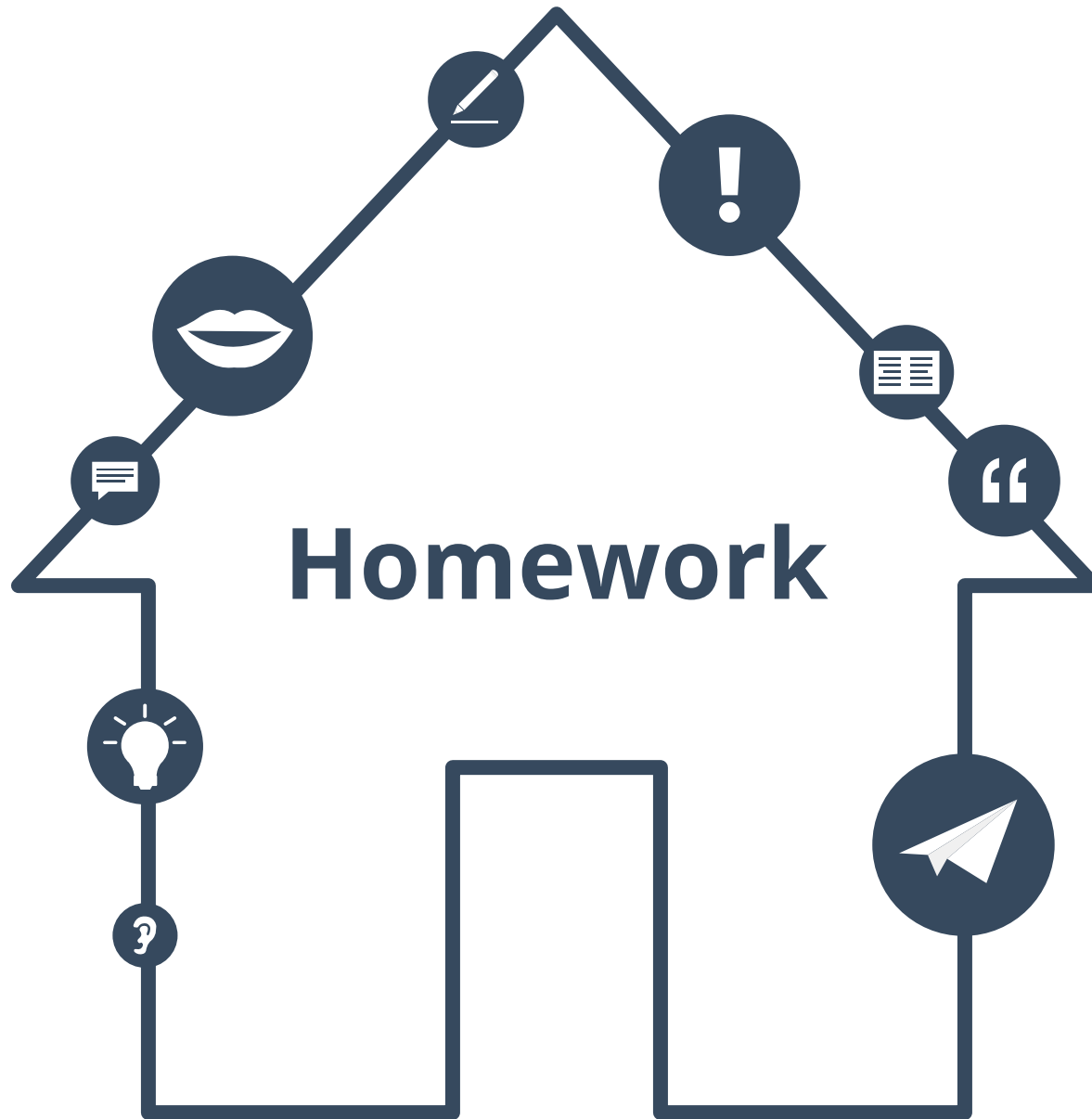


Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!







Pronunciation practice

Look back through the text. Note any words here with difficult pronunciation. Remember, practice makes perfect!





Write a letter

Imagine you are burying a time capsule for future generations. You want to write a letter to the people who will open the capsule in the future, telling them who you are and what life is like at this moment in time. What message do you want to communicate to future generations? What stories do you want to share? What advice could you give them from the past?

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