

Legends and Lore: Spooky Stories from Your Family's Past

Each family has spooky tales passed down through generations. These scary stories are more than pretend. They show secrets from your family's past!

Folklore is made up tales from a group. Legends are a kind of folklore some people think are true. When a legend is told over and over, it becomes a tradition.

Urban legends are modern tales set in towns. They often warn of danger. Have you heard the story of a dog in a microwave? Or the missing hitchhiker? Those are famous urban legends.

Your family likely has legends too. One kind explains last names. They tell where surnames came from long ago. Like the German name Schuster, which means "shoemaker." Your ancestors may have made shoes!

Other legends tell of ancestors' adventures. Imagine your great-great-grandpa was a cowboy out West. His story might have outlaws, Native Americans, and loose horses! Real or pretend, such tales let you picture your family's exciting past.

Legends can also reveal secrets. Is there a relative no one discusses? A child born unmarried? Folks hid shameful details back then. But clues survive in whispers, gossip, and tales "not to repeat." You can learn a lot from what's unsaid.

Spooky legends are the most thrilling kind. They often have haunted houses, ghosts, and curses. If your family lived somewhere very old, like a castle, it probably has chilling tales. Ask older relatives for the shocking stuff!

Finally, urban family legends warn of danger. Like not swimming at night or traveling alone. These tales connect to real events like drownings. Warnings get remembered as scary stories.

Next time your family meets, ask about legends. Let those tales take you through time. But also read between the lines. What secrets might they hold? Legends are more than just spooky stories. They're a peek into your ancestors' lives!

Glossary

- *folklore* - made up stories from a culture passed down through generations
- *surname* - your family last name
- *ancestors* - family members from past generations
- *origin* - the start or source of something
- *shocking* - very surprising or improper

Questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What are two kinds of legends described in the article?
a) Urban legends and last names b) Ancestor adventures and spooky legends
c) Origin tales and city dangers d) Family secrets and haunted houses
2. Based on the article, why might family legends start?
a) To explain names b) To share wisdom c) To hide secrets
d) All of the above
3. The passage states urban legends _____.
a) Are folklore warnings of danger b) Are always completely true
c) Cannot be scary stories d) Are never repeated
4. What do family origin legends explain?
a) Where last names came from b) How cities were created
c) Why ancestors moved d) How folklore started
5. Based on the article, why should you ask older relatives about legends?
a) To get exciting pretend tales b) To learn about your family's past
c) To find clues about secrets d) Both B and C
6. What is the main idea of the article?
a) Legends are made up tales for fun. b) Scary legends are told to frighten kids.
c) Family legends give clues about your history.
d) Urban legends are silly pointless stories.