



Family Dynamics

By: Amanda Martin

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History
Grades K-2



Introduction

Have families always looked like they do today? In this lesson, students will compare the family structure of the past to the family structure of today. Students will discuss what family means to them and discover how families looked in the past. Then, students will pick one of the family structures as their favorite and write a short text explaining their choice.

Learning Objectives

Students will understand family life now and in the past, and family life in various places long ago. ([NSS-USH.K-4.1](#))

Materials Needed

- Notebook paper and/or journals

Procedure

1. What is family? Ask students to think about that question for about 1-2 minutes. Then, allow students a chance to share. From student responses, lead a discussion about what family is and what it looks like (family may look somewhat differently from child to child, but the general idea should be the same).
2. Inform students that family structure and responsibilities have somewhat changed from the past. Discuss the following aspects of family life/structure from the past with the students.
 - Men: in charge of finances, made all family decisions, worked outside of the home, could own property, could vote
 - Women: responsible for cooking, cleaning, educating children, raising children, could not own property
 - Children: more responsibility in the home, many educated at home versus going to school
3. Ask students to respond in a short essay to the following question: *Of the two family structures we learned about today, which one would you want to be a part of? Why?* Students should respond individually on a piece of paper. Student responses should be at least five sentences in length. Please use the rubric below to grade student work.

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Evaluation

Please use the following rubric to assess student learning.

Categories	3 (Excellent)	2 (Okay)	1 (Not Quite)
The student selects a favored family structure.			
The student supports his/her viewpoint with evidence.			
The student's response is at least five sentences in length.			
The student uses complete sentences with appropriate capitalization and punctuation.			