

## Social Studies Theme: Change

**Lesson:** *Generations, Family History, Traditions, and Values*

**Grade Level:** 1-4

**Overview:** We receive physical traits, interests, values, and ways of doing things from our ancestors.

**Approximate Duration:** one class period

**National Social Studies Standards:** [NSS-USH.K-4.1](http://www.educationworld.com/standards/national/soc_sci/us_history/k_4.shtml) Living and Working Together in Families and Communities, Now and Long Ago  
[http://www.educationworld.com/standards/national/soc\\_sci/us\\_history/k\\_4.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/standards/national/soc_sci/us_history/k_4.shtml)

**Objective:** Students will be able to identify the role their ancestry plays in their lives and express this to others.

### Procedure:

- Show children a picture of yourself with one of your ancestors. Explain to your students the ways you resemble your parents and grandparents physically. Then talk about what skills and traditions you learned from them. Read the attached story, *Gardening and Tradition: Anita's Story*, together.
- Ask children to draw a picture of their parents and grandparents. Identify these people as their ancestors. Ask them to point to anyone in the picture that they look like in any physical way. Then have volunteers share what things they have learned from their ancestors.

### Assessment:

- Have children brainstorm a list things they learned from one of their ancestors, such as stories, a sports skill, a lesson about what is right and wrong, a way to celebrate a holiday, how to cook a special food, etc. Pair children with partners and have them take turns teaching or explaining that thing to their partner.
- Ask children to draw a picture of themselves with one of their ancestors

### *Gardening and Tradition: Anita's Story*

Anita has a garden in her backyard. Every Saturday morning Anita and her daughter walk to the well at the center of town that they live in. Anita uses the well to fill up a jug of water; she then carries the jug on top of her head back to the garden. Anita's daughter asked, "Why do you walk to the well to get water when we have running water from the hose?" Anita explains that her ancestors are from India and that they did not have running water for every house. Anita does this because she enjoys keeping this tradition alive while spending time with her daughter each Saturday maintaining their garden.

