**Subject:** Writing, Social Studies  
**Topic:** Civics, Genealogy, History  
**Grade:** K-5  
**Length:** approx. 1 hour

<table>
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<th>Materials:</th>
<th>Keywords:</th>
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| • PowerPoint  
• Questions  
• Paper and writing instruments  
• Optional Journal Time sheet | • Oral History  
• Scrapbook |

**Rationale:**
Celebrate the spirit of ambition, perseverance, and determination of the people in your family. Studying your family will be an interesting and meaningful activity for your child as he or she discovers how your family has been a part of history over the years. Engaging in Oral History is a great way to learn about your family in the past and how that impacts you today.

**Objectives:**
• Students will appreciate how events of the past shaped their lives today.  
• Students will recognize the impact made by efforts of families in history.  
• Students will understand more of their family history.  
• Students will identify ways in which they are similar/different to the interviewee.  
• Students will gain listening skills through phone interviews.

**Lesson:**
1. Leading Question: What do you think “oral history” is?  
2. Connection: The Martin family, immigrants from Scotland whose family home is on display at Naper Settlement. Introduce photographs as a primary source.  
3. Comparison: Photo albums and scrapbooks v. pictures on your phone. Scrapbook-defined here, used in future lesson plan.  
4. Connection: Black and white photos may be family and carry more relevance than you think!  
5. Question: What can I learn about the past from my older family members?  
6. Definition: Answer to leading question with definition of Oral History  
7. Investigation: Students will phone grandparents or an older family member and conduct an interview using the Oral History Interview Questions. A family friend may also be utilized if no members are available.  
8. Follow-up: Students are encouraged to journal or even scrapbook what they’ve learned through this investigation.

**Need:**
All PowerPoint  
7. Phone, Pencil or Pen, Question Sheet  
8. Journal, Pencil or Pen

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STANDARDS
Aligns with Common Core:
• English Language Arts Standards Grades K-5: Speaking and Listening: Comprehension and Collaboration
• Aligns with ISBE Social Studies Standards Grades K-5:
• Developing Questions and Planning Inquiries: Creating Essential Questions
• Developing Questions and Planning Inquiries: Creating Supporting Questions
• Evaluating Sources and Using Evidence: Gathering and Evaluating Sources
• History: Change, Continuity, and Context