Oral History-Making!

Time Needed

- 10 minutes for introduction
- 20 minutes out of class
- One class period

Materials

- Pencil
- Paper
- Recording device (optional)

The scientists in this study engaged in a form of oral history gathering by collecting information from morel hunters. In this FACTivity, you will do your own oral history gathering.

The question you will answer in this FACTivity is: What is a family tradition from your family or a friend’s family? The procedure you will use to answer this question is listed in four steps.

1. Your teacher will introduce the idea of a family tradition. A tradition is something that has been done on a regular and periodic basis. An example might be that a family takes an outdoor picnic on the Saturday closest to Earth Day every year. Another tradition may be that every Sunday evening after dinner, a family plays Monopoly together.

2. You will select a parent, uncle, aunt, or an adult from another family to interview. Using your recording device or a pencil and paper to take notes, ask the adult to describe a family tradition.

3. In class, you and your classmates will take turns reporting on a family tradition. You and your classmates will each have 3 minutes to describe the tradition.
4. Following all presentations, your teacher will lead a class discussion about family traditions. How were the reported traditions alike and how were they different? What are three characteristics of family traditions, based on the reports from you and your classmates? What are the similarities and differences between the family traditions shared in class and the tradition of mushroom hunting?

**Web Resources**

*What Is a Mushroom? What Are the Parts of a Mushroom?*

*Life Cycle of a Morel Mushroom*
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6JurrfK_wQI

*Mind-Boggling Facts About Mushrooms*
http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/kids/farm/story4/mushroomfacts.htm

*Mushroom Education Packet*
http://www.americanmushroom.org/workbook.pdf