

## Teaching resources - Our history & heritage

### Simple Act #9. Find out who you really are

#### Notes for teachers:

#### Learning Outcomes

By the end of the session students will:

- have an increased awareness of the breadth of our history & heritage
- have developed a wider understanding of the diversity of Britain, and the importance of our rich cultural fabric
- consider the significant contributions that refugees, migrants and their descendants have made to the UK, and how they have influenced our history, heritage and culture
- have developed their research and presentation skills

***The history of your family is a great mystery and, like all great mysteries, there are plenty of surprises to be had.***

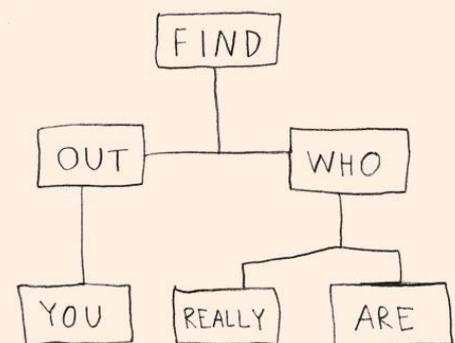
**Who would have thought that the origin of an English word about good breeding, lineage and ancestry would be a French bird with big feet?**

Apparently, the English word “pedigree” comes from the French ‘pied de grue’ or ‘foot of the crane’, probably because a simply drawn family tree looks a bit like the foot of a bird.

So what about you and me? If we traced back our line to its beginnings, would we find a big-footed French bird or something equally as unexpected and entertaining? Ask Boris Johnson, the Mayor of London, who traced back his family’s roots and discovered himself to be a descendant of a Turkish refugee!

#### Learning Activity 01:

Talk to your parents, carers and guardians about your family history. Ask your grandparents, parents, uncles and aunties to tell you more about your family and its past. Share a story about your family with your class.



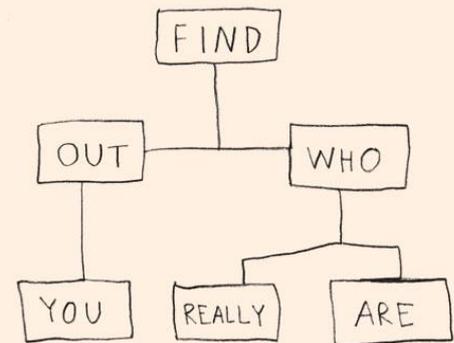
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#### Learning Activity 02:

Find out where your name comes from. Your surname (last name) holds a lot of meaning. It helps us discover who we are and where we come from. Ask a parent, carer or guardian where your name might come from and what it might mean.

You can also do some research online



*These learning resources are developed in partnership with the brilliant **Simple Acts**.*

*You have now completed a Simple Act by completing these learning activities! Please get in touch and tell us all about it [HERE](http://www.simpleacts.org.uk/done-an-action.htm) (<http://www.simpleacts.org.uk/done-an-action.htm>).*

*There are more ideas on the Simple Acts website, with links to additional activities. Visit the Simple Acts website [HERE](http://www.simpleacts.org.uk) or go to: [www.simpleacts.org.uk](http://www.simpleacts.org.uk)*

*Refugee Week has also created a new online interactive time-line to help to share often surprising facts about the contributions of refugees throughout our history. We are also inviting you to add your insights and personal experiences about our local or national history and heritage. Read more at: [www.refugeeweektimeline.org.uk](http://www.refugeeweektimeline.org.uk)*

*We hope that you will join us on our quest to learn more about our history & heritage – we promise it will be an exciting and gripping journey!*