

Family History Coloring Books - Turning the Hearts of the Children

by Wanless Southwick

Family history is more than genealogy. Names on our pedigree charts represent real people with life stories. Adults may glean significant stories about ancestor from certificate dates and places, from census records, from obituaries, and from journals, but children don't. A family history coloring book is a child-friendly strategy to get children to turn their hearts toward their ancestors

How to make a family history coloring book:

1. Begin by choosing an ancestor about whom you have credible information
2. Give yourself plenty of time to develop and produce the coloring book
3. Focus on memorable events that illustrate praiseworthy character traits and experiences
4. Organize events into an easily understandable story (don't try to include every life detail)
5. Create context for the story by including any famous people, places, and events involved
6. Begin a clip art collection that can be used to illustrate elements of the story
 - a. Clip art software packages can be purchased on CD-ROM (e.g. "LDS Clipart")
 - b. Children's magazines, such as the *LDS Friend*, publish stories with coloring pages which can be scanned.
 - c. Search the Internet for images (try keywords "coloring page" and "clipart")
 - d. Draw or create your own images
 - e. Use photographs sparingly (e.g. contemporary photographs of the ancestors)
 - f. Be sure to honor copyrights.
 - i. Get permission to use images if they are not in the public domain
 - ii. Show source of images used
 - iii. Pay fees if required by the image provider
7. Arrange images and brief lines of text onto pages
8. Manipulate images on the printed page
 - a. Learn how to set "word wrap" for placement of images and text on the page
 - b. Learn the difference between vector and bitmap images when changing image size
 - c. Learn how to change image placement order (in front of or behind other images)
 - d. Where necessary, edit images to fit story context
9. Proofread, edit, and print the coloring book.

How to use family history coloring books:

1. A coloring activity for children at family reunions or family home evenings
2. As a guide for skits about ancestors using descendant children to play ancestor roles
3. Sharing ancestor stories with distant relatives and home guests

See examples of family history coloring books:

See examples at the Southwick Research website:

<http://www.southwickresearch.com/Genealogy/ColoringBooks.htm>