

Your Family in the Americas

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Whether your ancestors are indigenous to the Americas, came via migration, bondage or immigration, you will have an opportunity to explore writing about that experience in this session. If you don't know much about your family's story, we will discuss strategies for learning more.

1. What factual information do you know about your family's arrival in the Americas?
2. Why did they come to the Americas?
3. When did they arrive?
4. Where did they live when they first came to the Americas?
5. What was the experience like when they first arrived?
6. What language(s) did they speak during their early years in the Americas? Do any family members still speak those languages?
7. What items did they bring with them?
8. What cultural traditions did they bring with them? Which ones does your family still practice?
9. What are some of the family stories about your family's arrival in the Americas?
10. If you have visited the country from which your family came, what was the experience like?
11. If you have not visited the country from which your family came, what do you think the experience would be like?
12. If you have ever fantasized about moving back to some region of the world that you ancestors live in, what are those fantasies?
13. Ignoring the principle that you exist only because of the DNA combination that you are, what do you think your life would be like if your ancestors had not come to America?
14. Given the life experiences of your ancestors from centuries ago, what do you imagine that ancestor would think about life in America in the 21st century?
15. One of Duane's fantasies is to be able to go back to the homes of each of his ancestors throughout history? If you have a similar fantasy, what is it?

The Kinds of Online Resources That Are Available

Cyndi's List (<https://www.cyndislist.com/>): See the resources about geographical locations.

The Kinds of Print Resources That Are Available

- Conklin, Nancy Faires, and Margaret A. Lourie. *A Host of Tongues: Language Communities in the United States*. New York: The Free Press, 1983.
- Gesme, Ann Urness. *Between Rocks and Hard Places: Traditions, Customs, and Conditions in Norway during the 1800s Emigration from Norway, the Immigrant Community in America*. Gesme, 1993.
- Hawkins, Nancy, and Hawkins, Arthur. *The American Regional Cookbook: Recipes from Yesterday and Today for the Modern Cook*. New York: Greenwich House, 1984.
- Martinson, Floyd M. *Growing Up in Norway, 800 to 1990*. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1992.
- Mencken, H. L. *The American Language: An Inquiry into the Development of English in the United States*. 4th ed. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1937
- Semmingsen, Ingrid. *Norway to America: A History of Migration*. Translated by Einar Haugen. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1978.
- Zempel, Solveig, ed. and trans. *In Their Own Words: Letters from Norwegian Immigrants*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1991.