



**STAY CONNECTED.
STAY CURIOUS.**

Learning from Our Elders

Oral histories are stories a person shares about events that happened earlier in their life. Often, they are gathered by family members, historians, or others who interview older people, or elders, to document events and perspectives that might otherwise be forgotten.

We can learn a lot about history from elders in our own family and community. Take some time to interview someone you know who was alive during the 1960s, and document what life was like for them during the civil rights movement.

Materials Needed:

- Paper and pencil or pen
- Interview questions
- A way to connect (phone, email, video chat, letter, or other communication tool)

What to do:

1. Select who to interview and set up a time.
2. Use the questions below or come up with your own!
3. Start with easy questions and move on to harder/longer questions.
4. Be sure to record the date you interview the person for historical record.

Interview questions:

- Please tell me your name, your birthdate, our relationship, and where you are.
- How old were you in 1965?
- Tell me about where you grew up.
- Tell me about the house and neighborhood where you lived.
- Who was your best friend during that time and what did you like to do together?
- What kind of music did you listen to?
- What style of clothing did you wear?
- What do you remember about the civil rights movement?
- Do you remember any controversy in your community/neighborhood? How was it settled?
- What do you think was accomplished during the civil rights movement?
- If you have one, please share a story about the civil rights movement. Tell me about your participation, your involvement, how it impacted you, or when you first heard about it.