

My
MORMON
Ancestor



A **Zip** The Grandma Gap Activity Book

By Janet Hovorka & Amy Slade

How To Use This Book

This activity book is designed to help create stronger bonds in modern families by encouraging the whole family to learn about their ancestors together. Greater knowledge about family history especially strengthens and empowers youth by creating self-esteem, resilience and a greater sense of control over their lives. Studying the family's past also strengthens the relationships between living family members by creating a shared experience and core identity that no one else in the world can duplicate. Young people can take the lead to accomplish the activities in this book with their family members.

It is our hope that learning about your family's past together can be a fun and exciting adventure and that this book will help all of your family members discover joy in the quest to find out more about your ancestors.

Janet Hovorka *Amy Slade*

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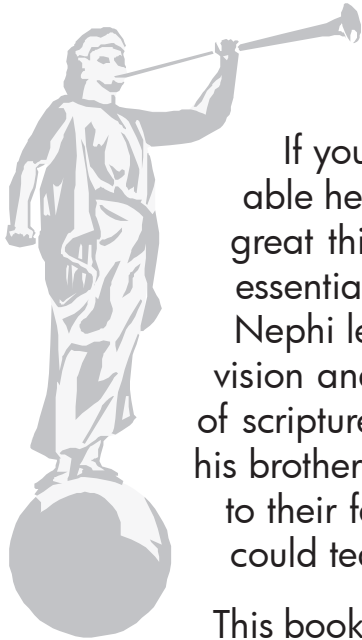
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Introduction



“I Nephi, having been born of goodly parents...”
~1 Nephi 1:1 Book of Mormon.

If you have Mormon ancestors you have a faithful and honorable heritage to be proud of. Mormon people have done many great things in the world. And learning about that heritage is essential. At the beginning to the Book of Mormon, the prophet Nephi left Jerusalem with his family. Soon, his father Lehi saw a vision and asked Nephi and his brothers to return to get a book of scripture which contained the family’s genealogy. Nephi and his brothers risked their lives to obtain the record and bring it back to their family. They continued on their journey, secure that they could teach their children about their family’s history.

This book will help you learn about your history and preserve it for future generations—something vitally important to members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the LDS or Mormon church). In modern times, prophets have counseled that great spiritual power can come from studying family history. Elder David Bednar stated that family history is a “matter of highest priority to Diety.” He promised that youth “will be protected against the intensifying influence of the adversary [and] be safeguarded in [their] youth and throughout [their] lives.” (October 2011 General Conference)



This is how you do it:

Start by filling in the first pages with what you know about your ancestors and follow the instructions on where to look for more information. Then there are pages with common cultural experiences which work like puzzle pieces to help fill in what the day to day lives of your ancestors were like. The pages with references that are not specific to your family members are marked at the bottom of the page with puzzle pieces. While you may not be sure that your ancestors experienced all of the details of this cultural knowledge, these are common experiences shared by many LDS people in the past and they very likely apply to your family. If you have pioneer ancestors, you can also check out the book *My Pioneer Ancestor*.