

My
GERMAN
Ancestor



A **Zap** 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 .



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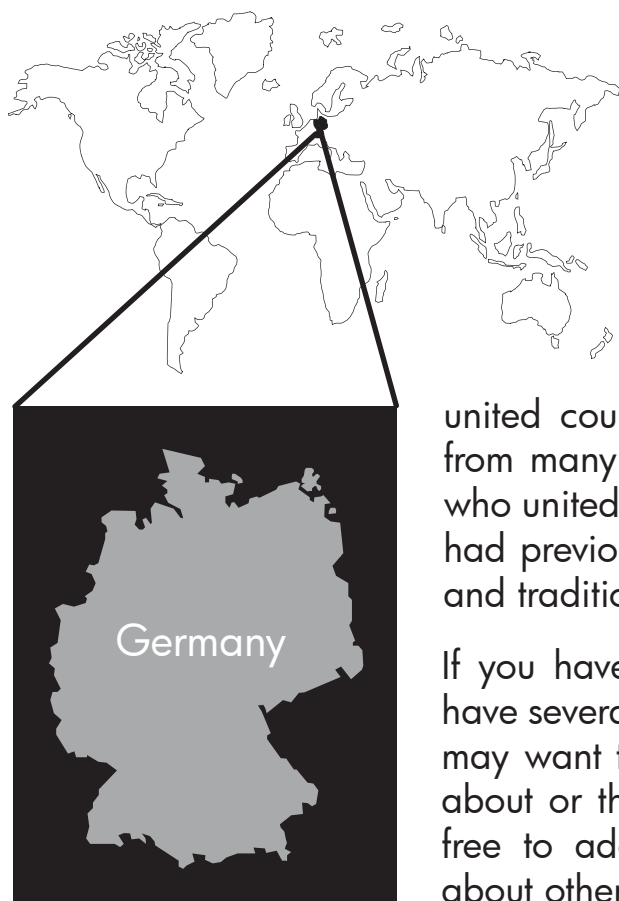
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Table of Contents

How To Use This Book	2
Introduction	4
How Am I Related To My German Ancestors?	5
Where Can I Find More?	6
My Ancestor's Childhood	7
Where Can I Find Even More?	8
My Ancestor's Adult Life	9
Me and My Ancestor	10
My Ancestor's Timeline	12
Do You Know German?.....	13
My Ancestor's Home	14
My Ancestor's Journeys	15
German Länder.....	16
German Landmarks	18
German Innovators	20
Schultüte School Bag	21
A Brüder Grimm Fairy Tale	22
German Food	26
Color the Flag.....	27
A Letter to My Ancestor	28
Oh Yeah? Prove It.....	29
German Music	30
Weihnachten Activities	32
Gothic German Script.....	38
Paper Dolls	39
Paper Doll Clothes	43
Certificate of Completion	49
Answers	51
Further Resources	52

Introduction



If you have German ancestors, you are really lucky. Germany is a beautiful country in the center of Europe. Germany has made a major political, religious and cultural impact on the world with many important philosophers, inventors, musicians, scholars and scientists. The history of Germany as

united country is relatively short. It was formed from many small states ruled by dukes and kings who united in 1871. However the German people had previously shared the same language, culture and traditions for thousands of years.

If you have one German ancestor, you probably have several German ancestors. For this book, you may want to focus on the one you know the most about or the one most interesting to you, but feel free to add other pages with more information about other ancestors.



Sections of this Book

The workbook starts with pages to fill in what you know about your ancestors and 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 German people in the past and very likely apply to your family.