

The Eliyahu Project - Interview Questions

Questions for parents, grandparents and other family storytellers.

Questions

- What is your full name, and how was it chosen?
- Where and when were you born? What do you know about that day?
- What are your earliest memories of home?
- What were your parents and grandparents like as people?
- What family stories were repeated when you were young?
- What foods, smells, songs, sayings or objects immediately take you back to childhood?
- What did an ordinary school day look like?
- Who were your closest childhood friends?
- What did your family do for birthdays and major holidays?
- What rules did your household have?
- What did your parents worry about? What did they hope for?
- What work did your parents and grandparents do?
- What did money mean in your household?
- Was there a move, migration or immigration that changed the family?
- Which place has felt most like home, and why?
- What historical events did you experience personally?
- What did your family lose, rebuild or preserve?
- Who taught you the most important lessons of your youth?
- What did you believe your adult life would be like?
- What was your first job? What did it teach you?
- How did you meet your spouse or important partner?
- What do you remember about becoming a parent?
- What family traditions did you deliberately continue?
- What traditions changed or disappeared?
- What was the hardest period of your life, and what helped you through it?
- What decision changed the direction of your life?
- What are you proudest of?
- What mistake taught you the most?

- Who showed you unexpected kindness?
- What family member do you wish younger generations could have known?
- What object, photograph, letter or document has the greatest family meaning?
- What family expressions or jokes should never be forgotten?
- What recipes belong to your family's story?
- What music belongs to different chapters of your life?
- What did your community mean to you?
- What did you learn about friendship?
- What did you learn about marriage or partnership?
- What did you learn about raising children?
- What did aging teach you that youth could not?
- What do you wish you had asked your own parents or grandparents?
- What do you want descendants to understand about the era in which you lived?
- Which family values are worth protecting?
- What do you hope your children and grandchildren will do differently?
- What should they never be ashamed of?
- What should they always remember about where they came from?
- If you could preserve only five stories, which five would they be?
- What photograph needs its story written down now?
- Whose voice should also be recorded?
- What unfinished story still needs to be told?
- What message would you leave for a descendant reading this fifty years from now?