

What's in a Portrait?

In this activity, students learn how to analyze a family photograph, by asking the right questions and looking carefully at all the details.

Ask each student to find the oldest photograph they can of one or several members of their family. Give each student a copy of the 5 W's Question Sheet on the following page and ask them to complete it with the help of a family member. Be sure to review the questions before sending the Question Sheet home.

Have students bring their photograph and completed worksheet back to school to share what they have learned about their family photograph with the class. What did they learn by asking the questions? What kinds of information were they able to find using visual clues, such as clothing, objects, or settings? Was there any information they could not find? What else would they like to learn about their photograph?



5 W's Question Sheet

When you look at family photos, ask family members the following questions:

Who is in the photo?

Who took the photo?

Where was the photo taken?

When was the photo taken?

Why was the photo taken?

What else is in the photo (other than the people)?
