

## **Family Life Now and Then**

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### **Overview:**

Students in this historic preservation activity will interview their parents(s) about the family life of their generation. Students will compile an archive that includes these interviews as well as descriptions of their own family life.

### **Standards:**

- History Standard 2: Students know how to use the processes and resources of historical inquiry.
- History Standard 3: Students understand that societies are diverse and have changed over time.
- Reading and Writing Standard 3: Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.
- Reading and Writing Standard 4: Students apply thinking skills to their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing.

### **Objectives:**

After completing this activity, students will be able to:

- Record information from parent interviews.
- Write about their own family life.
- Contribute to the Doing History/Keeping the Past family life database.

### **Inquiry Questions:**

- What is family life like in Colorado today?
- What was family life like when your parents were your age?
- What are some of the issues about family life in our society (single families, divorce, etc)?

- What were the issues about family life when your parent(s) were growing up?
- What family structures exist in today's society?
- What family structures were common when your parents' were young?

**Procedure:**

1. CD-ROM Use: Print out and make six to eight copies of the following historical photographs:  
FOOD, CLOTHING, AND SHELTER THEME:
  - Clothing Sequence:
    - Photo 1: Three People at a Mining Cabin
    - Photo 4: A Family Portrait
    - Photo 5: Mr. and Mrs. Paul Peyer at Home
    - Photo 6: A Family in Front of Their Cabin
  - Interiors Sequence:
    - Photo 1: Three Men in a Cabin
    - Photo 2: Two Men in a Cabin
2. Divide the class into six to eight groups and give each group a set of the four photos. Ask what these photos tell them about households in the mining regions of Colorado in the late 19th century? (Some possible responses are that families did live in mining camps and that the traditional family structure of parents and children existed, along with families that consisted only of husband and wife.)
3. Ask the students to discuss and record their responses to the inquiry questions above about family life in Colorado today.
4. Ask the students to write two accounts of family life based on their responses:
  - the first account is of their parent(s) family life when they were their age.
  - the second account is of their family life today
5. When the accounts are in their final forms, students will donate them to the class database or archive on family life.