Starting your family history can seem daunting at first, but with these top tips you’ll be a genealogical sleuth in no time.

BEFORE YOU GET ONLINE...

1. ONE BRANCH AT A TIME
   Trace one branch of your tree – say your maternal line - so you don’t get side-tracked

2. KEEP YOUR SEARCH LOOSE AT FIRST
   A name and date make a good starting point for a basic search

3. SOMETIMES DATES CAN BE A LITTLE OFF
   In some cases, the baptism might be recorded instead of the birth

4. BE OPEN-MINDED, THINGS CHANGE
   Events weren’t always recorded where someone lived, so check records nearby

5. LOOK OUT FOR SPELLING ERRORS
   Check for name variants in the records. Using a wild card one word search can help.

PICK YOUR RELATIVES’ BRAINS
Note parents’ and grandparents’ names and birth years.

JOT DOWN WOMEN’S MAIDEN NAMES
This is key to tracing them in the records.

NOW, TIME TO START HUNTING
Hop on a computer, and go to www.findmypast.co.uk

? ANY QUESTIONS
Say hello on social media or email us at support@findmypast.co.uk.

SHARE YOUR STORIES
We love hearing about your discoveries. Tell us at testimonials@findmypast.com
Practise with information you already know is true, and quiz any family members you can before you get going.

1. **FIND YOURSELF**
Find yourself in the records by typing your name and year of birth into the search. You’ll see your mother’s maiden name on your birth transcript.

2. **THEN, YOUR PARENTS**
Use your mother’s maiden surname and your father’s surname to find your parents’ marriage record. Let’s imagine these were “Knight” and “Marigold”.

3. **CHECK THEIR MARRIAGE**
Their marriage transcript will tell you both your parents’ names, including their middle names, plus where their marriage took place.

4. **TRACE YOUR FATHER**
Repeat these steps to trace your father’s birth. His birth record will tell you your grandmother’s maiden name. Imagine this is “Lyndsey”.

5. **REPEAT THESE STEPS**
Search for your grandparents, Marigold and Lyndsey. You will then be able to use their transcript to go back further.

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**ANY QUESTIONS**
Your tree starts with you. Follow these simple steps, and it will be blossoming in no time...

1. **REGISTER FOR FREE**
   Register for free with Findmypast, and head over to www.findmypast.co.uk/family-tree to get started.

2. **IT STARTS WITH YOU**
   Enter your name, birth date and birth place on the tree page. This makes YOU the starting point for your tree.

3. **ADD YOUR PARENTS**
   Enter their details into the boxes above, and this will create branches. You’ll notice small orange bubbles pop up.

4. **TAKE A HINT**
   This is our hinting tool, which scours the records for more matches every time you add new information to your tree.

5. **ANY MATCHES?**
   Checking the hints will help you to become familiar with the key record sets to take your family history further.

... And it’s that simple! The more you explore our records on Findmypast, the more relatives you’ll be able to add to your tree. You can also check out our handy videos and articles at www.findmypast.co.uk/build-your-tree.

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