

Family Jeopardy Game

Create your own....tons of fun!

Make sure you have the following:

- 1 - first, middle, and last names of all players
- 2 - birthdays (month, day, year) of all players
- 3 - where all the people attended college (or last school attended, if younger players)
- 4 - grasp of genealogy (who is mom's oldest brother's father?)
- 5 - what city and state do all the players live in now

Categories:

Birthdays - answers involve birthdays... like which 2 sisters have a birthday in the same month?

Locations - all the answers are a location, like what city did Grandma and Grandpa meet in? or what country was Grandma born in? Where did Kristin go to college?

Genealogy - all answers involve thinking about who begat whom....so who is mom's oldest brother's father? Or name all of grandma's children in birth order.

Numbers - all the answers are a number, like how many siblings did grandma have? or what was the number on dad's football jersey in college? Or what was the house number we lived on at Lagoon Road? (1730) or how many cats are buried in the backyard? Possibilities are endless....

Names - all answers are a name....can be simple, like what's grandma's middle name, or complex, like which 2 grandchildren share a middle name that is also grandma's first name. Nicknames can go here or in a separate category.

Connections - this is a fun category where I look to see how connections run through the family. It can be as simple as "Grandma's middle name is Ellen. Which 2 of her grandchildren share that name either as their first or middle name?" or more complicated, like "What do Grandma, Bill's daughter, and The Pond at the farm have in common?" (Ellen - grandma's middle name is Ellen, Bill's daughter is named Ellen, and the farm pond is called Lake Ellen). I also like to scour the birthday lists to find odd connections, like this one: which 2 grandchildren a) share a birthday in the same month, b) are not siblings, and c) her first name is spelled backwards inside his first name (Michael and Leah)

You can really make up any categories you want....if lots of people played sports, or musical instruments, that's a great category to include.

Rules of the Game:

We usually play boys against the girls, with one person deemed spokesperson for the group. When I ask a question, the team discusses the answer all they want (about 15-30 seconds), but I only take the answer from the spokesperson. Each question is worth points -- 1 point for the first question, 2 points for the second, etc...up to 8 points for the final question. And in my games, you have to start at 1 and work your way in order to the higher-point questions, because I include in the lower-point questions clues to answering the big questions. You can jump around the categories, but must always begin each category at the lowest point value. You could play differently.

Scoring:

Let's say the BOYS answer a 3-point question correctly -- they are awarded 3 points. Next question goes to the girls. The GIRLS choose a question, and let's say the GIRLS answer incorrectly -- the same question goes back to the boys. If they get it correct, they are awarded 3 points. If they answer incorrectly, I give the correct answer and the next question goes to the boys, because it was a GIRL team question. Play continues until all questions are gone. I like to keep a poster board with a running score tally where all players can see it.

Final Jeopardy:

Teams can bet the farm. I give no category for this -- just make each team write the amount they're betting on a piece of paper and it to you. Then I give the final jeopardy question....something like "write all the grandchildren in birth order from oldest to youngest", or something that's going to require a team effort. When you have their answers in writing, see who's correct and do the math....it's a fun game and a great way to learn about family history!!

Game Board:

I made a board out of felt, but you can draw a grid on poster board and achieve the same effect.