



Scholars Speak

"We Come From Everywhere"

September 2018



Week of September 24th

We all come from different places! Think about your ancestors. In one to two paragraphs, describe where your ancestors originated. You can choose to write about both sides of your family or pick one side. Spend five minutes talking with your parents to gain insight. If you don't know where your ancestors came from, write about where your parents are from.

Be sure to describe their mode of transportation (i.e. train, boat, airplane) and two interesting facts about their homeland (climate, terrain, land features, interesting facts, food, music, etc.). During your presentation, be prepared to point out the location on a map where they came from.

Create a detailed illustration to support your presentation using colored pencils. This illustration will go in the "box" on the typing template.

Writing Genre: Informational
Length: 1-2 paragraphs

Example:

My ancestors on both sides of my family came from Greece. Greece is known for its many, many islands, but most of my relatives came from the mainland which has a geography that is similar to California. It has mountains, valleys, and beaches, just like we do. My grandfather, Papou George, came from Thessaloniki, which is on mainland Greece. He lived on the side of a mountain with ten brothers and sisters and no running water or plumbing. His family was so poor that he went to America to try to make money to send home to them. My grandmother, Yayia Mary, came from a village not far from his. She was very talented and knew how to sew beautiful clothing. They both came on a large ship through Ellis Island. They didn't meet until they had both settled in Manchester New Hampshire. On the other side, my grandmother, Yayia

Viola, came from Kalambaka That is also in mainland Greece and is the region where many monasteries are built high up in the cliffs. My grandmother met my grandfather on the boat to America. She was using a relative's papers because she didn't have any proper identification of her own!

When I was little, I had to go to Greek School to learn Greek. My parents were first generation Americans and they spoke English all the time, even though they both were fluent in Greek. For some reason, they didn't want to speak Greek at home and so I learned most of my Greek at school. In my family, we go to Greek Orthodox church and celebrate Easter with the Eastern Christians. It is not always on the same day as "American Easter." We dye Easter Eggs red and eat lamb, potatoes, string beans, and Greek salad. For dessert we have baklava or cookies with powdered sugar called, kourembiethes. When I got married, I had a "big fat Greek wedding", with a Greek band and lots of Greek dancing. I like being Greek because there is a lot of culture that goes along with it. Visiting Greece was one of my favorite vacations ever. Yassou!