

Grandparent's Day

Grandparent's Day was officially signed into law by Jimmy Carter in 1978 designating the first Sunday after Labor Day as a holiday for families to visit their elder relatives. Many schools highlight grandparents and their important connection to students with lunches, teas, or special projects meant to honor and learn about the past.

Essential Vocabulary

grandparent – two generations older than yourself; your parent's parent

ancestor – any of the generations of people from whom you are descended

descendant – the offspring of parents or grandparents; a direct relative

history – a sequence of past events

Lesson Starters

Family Stories

Encourage students to sit with family members and learn stories from their past. Investigate [personal narratives through graphic organizers](#) to help students with their writing. Boost writers with [mentor texts](#) and share [personal family stories](#). Students can conclude their study with traditional or tech-savvy interviews and writing that shares one or more powerful stories from their family history.

Foodie Family Traditions

Share great recipes and family traditions with a cookbook. Students can research traditional recipes from their heritage with or without the help of family members. Have special dishes brought to share and be sure to invite grandparents! Compile recipes and student illustrations in a cookbook as a gift for each family.

When I'm 64

Have students create a self-portrait. Then have students bring photos of their own grandparents or show pictures of older individuals, noting the differences in appearance. Students can add wrinkles, glasses, or other details to their face and then write what they believe their life will be like



Then and Now

Have students find out what year their grandparent was the same age they are now. Then students can use personal artifacts or digital and traditional resources to create a "then and now" display. Photos, prices, styles, music, and more can be incorporated into a poster or digital display.

Modern Silhouettes

Research the history and art of silhouettes. Grandparents may have silhouettes from childhood on display at home. Bring in science light concepts while showing students how to create a silhouette. As a grandparent gift, use bright background colors or elaborately patterned paper to update the classic. Dollar-store frames can complete a precious gift for any family member.

Modern Rules

Have students discuss household rules and expectations with parents, grandparents, and even great grandparents to find how things are different today. Make a list of rules that grandparents grew up with and compare and contrast with rules today.

What Grandmas/Grandpas Do Best

Read [What Grandmas Do Best](#) (and then flip the book to read about grandpas). Create individual or a class story with details about each grandparent. Older students can use [The Important Book](#) as their guide.

Resource Connection

[Everything You Need: Family](#)

Discover resources, lesson plans, and activities for learning more about family and grandparents.

[Family: A 4-Day Lesson Plan](#)

Help young students build a concept of family and complete an oral report.

[Song and Dance Man Discussion Guide & Activities](#)

Grandpa uses the items in an old trunk to bring vaudeville alive for his grandchildren.

[Everything You Need: Immigration](#)

Explore the history and culture of ancestors.