



What Is Family?

Pre-Visit Activity

Pre-Visit Discussion: What does it mean to be a family?

Use the following questions to help students define what family means to them.

- What makes a group of people a family?
- What makes each family special?
- What is your family like?
- What makes your family special to you?

Pre-Visit Activity: Draw a family portrait.



Materials needed:

- Pencils, crayons, or markers
- Paper

Instructions:

1. Draw a picture of your family somewhere you love being together.
2. Share your drawing with your teacher or your class.



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Post-Visit Discussion

Use the following questions to discuss how families are different and the same to one another.

- How is your family different or similar to the families we saw in the clips at the Paley Center?
- What do you think happens in a family when there is no mother or father? Or when a family has only a mother or only a father? Or when there are two mothers or two fathers?
- What do you think all families have in common?

Post-Visit Activity:

Integrate a selection of stories featuring different types of families into your next read aloud. Discuss the family structure in the story and the different responsibilities each member has.

Suggested books for Grades K- 2:

The Adventures of Honey and Leon by Alan Cumming (Grades K+)

And Tango Makes Three by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell (Grades K+)

The Blue House by Phoebe Wahl

Families, Families, Families! by Suzanne Lang and Max Lang (Grades K+)

The Great Big Book of Families by Mary Hoffman

My Two Moms and Me by Michael Joosten (Grades K+)

Who's in My Family: All About our Families by Robie H. Harris