

## **MEDICAL FAMILY TREE**

Offered by Dianne Proctor, Nacogdoches H.S., at the Fall Professional Development Conference, 2001, during the “Brain Dump” session

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### **OBJECTIVES/RATIONALE**

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Today more than ever, there is a recognized relationship between some disease processes and genetics. The student will construct a personal Medical Family Tree.

TEKS: 121.2 (c)(3)(B) 121.4(c)(11)(A,B,C) TAKS ELA 1, 3, 4  
Social Studies 5  
Science 1, 2, 3

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### **KEY POINTS**

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- I. Creating a medical family tree is
  - A. Preventative medicine everyone can practice
  - B. Physician can help identify personal risks after identification of health problems
- II. Medical Family Tree
  - A. Family Health History
    - 1. record basic data about immediate family
    - 2. many conditions follow a definite genetic pattern
    - 3. awareness may avert advanced disease or disability
    - 4. the age of individual when disease first occurred is important
    - 5. some occupations may expose workers to factors that affect health
    - 6. history of GOOD health is also important to document
  - B. Children’s Birth Record
    - 1. details of children’s births should be carefully noted
    - 2. Apgar score – rates newborn respiration, muscle tone, reflexes, heart rate and color on a scale of zero to two for a maximum score of ten points
  - C. Incomplete pregnancies – a woman’s system undergoes a series of changes that mark her overall personal health whether the baby is delivered or not.
  - D. Record of Immunizations – keep a record of every inoculation for each family member
  - E. Periodic Medical Examinations
    - 1. accentuate positive as well as negative findings
    - 2. make special note of the findings or advice given
  - F. Individual Problems, Medications, or Allergies
    - 1. Make note of medications along with instructions for daily use
    - 2. Notation of prescription name(s) and name of the pharmacy
  - G. Physical Characteristics of family member
  - H. Record of Family Illness
    - 1. Acute illnesses, accidents, surgical procedures and infections
    - 2. common childhood diseases

**Instructor Note:** Have students interview their parents regarding all family members for at least three generations (including the student's generation) and make a visual Medical Family Tree. The information gleaned from parents should include: diseases/disorders found, who had the disease/disorder (mother's or father's side of family), the age at which they developed the disease/disorder, age of death (if applicable). Have the students do an Internet search of each disease/disorder they encountered. Determine whether the cause is genetic, related to life-style, caused by exposure to a causative agent, etc. Follow-up with a discussion of findings and allow students to share as much as they wish regarding their findings. Finally, encourage the students to keep this in a folder on the medical health, along with immunizations, etc

In Health Science Technology II, the students can further develop their family tree. First, they can investigate wellness strategies to help prevent or control the disease process. Second, they can determine screenings that should be done (if any) and encourage family members regarding these screenings. Finally, they can research alternative health practices and therapies and analyze the validity of those practices.

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### ACTIVITIES

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1. Interview family member(s) and prepare a Medical Family Tree.

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### MATERIALS NEEDED

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Poster Board, Markers, computers with Internet accessibility.

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### ASSESSMENT

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Completion of Medical Family Tree  
Oral Presentation Rubric

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### ACCOMMODATIONS

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For reinforcement, the student will develop interview questions for family member(s).

For enrichment, the student will research a genetic disorder and trace the family history.

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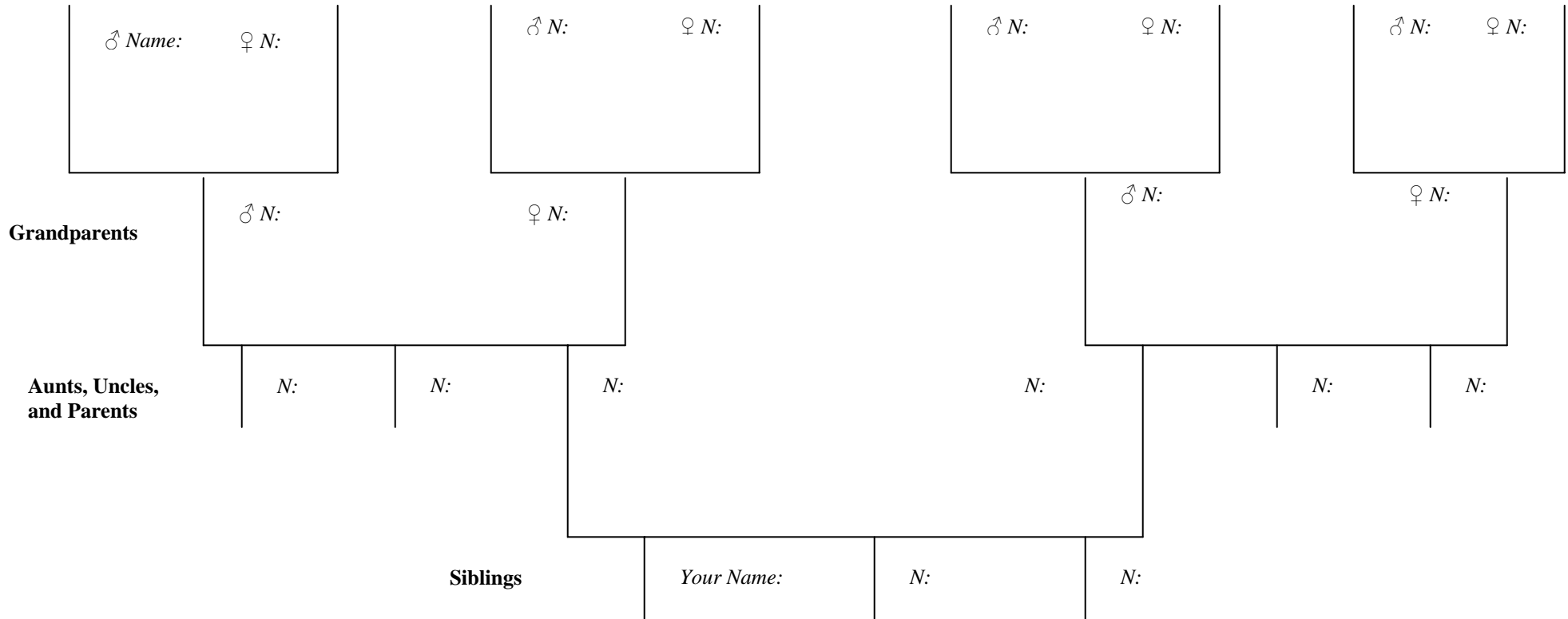
### REFLECTIONS

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# Medical Family Tree

## Great Grandparents



Starting with your great grandparents, fill in the full names and dates of birth and death. Next, add as much as you can about the health of your close relatives: include chronic ailments, surgeries, causes of death, and physical characteristics.