

**Genealogy
Quiz
Answers**

Each question is worth 20 points.

1. One of the best first steps in genealogical research is:
 - a. Take a trip to the Library of Congress
 - b. Purchase as many books on genealogy as possible
 - c. Talk with relatives and take notes
 - d. Become a member of a genealogical society
 - e. Visit a website like Cyndi's List or Rootsweb

Answer: c

Comment: Though checking a megasite like Cyndi's List, becoming a member of a society, buying books, and even going to Washington, DC may all be valuable, anyone doing genealogical research will get a lot more out of these things (especially the websites) with a list of names with dates and places associated with them.

2. A key aspect of being a family historian is:
 - a. Being a member of a genealogical society or local history association
 - b. Documenting what you find
 - c. Posting your findings on a discussion list like Roots-L
 - d. Being able to travel to get family records

Answer: b

Comment: All three of the other choices are good, but to be taken seriously, a family historian MUST prove through documentation (birth/death/marriage certificates and other records) that they are descended from the names they enter into the family tree. This is especially important if someone needs to prove lineage to join a society such as the DAR. Sometimes you even have to have official documentation (like a death certificate) to get other official records (like a birth or marriage certificate).

3. There is no way to find out what ship a person's ancestors were on when they came to the United States.

True False

Answer: False

Comment: They can't always be found, but there are records of immigrant arrivals on ships, and there are guides in print (*They Came in Ships*, et al) and online (ellisland.org and others) for doing this.

4. The Social Security Administration publishes the Social Security Death Index and the California Death Index.

True False

Answer: False

Comment: These are not published by the Social Security Administration. The Social Security Death Index was put together from SSA records, but is not published by them. Ancestry.com is the publisher of the California Death Index, which was taken from electronic data held by the California Department of Health Services' Center for Health Statistics. Even though they are commercially published, they are available to search for free through rootsweb.com, which partners with Ancestry.

5. In order to join the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Mayflower Society, or the Jamestowne Society, you have to provide proof that you are descended from someone who fought in the Revolutionary War, one or more of the Mayflower Pilgrims, or one of the Jamestowne colonists respectively.

True False

Answer: True

Comment: This is one of the things that make documentation so important. Some people become interested in their family tree because they are interested in joining a society like one of these.