

- Would you rather . . .  
Eat bland food or overly spicy food?  
Own a cat or a dog?  
Drink coffee or tea?  
Drink water or soda?  
Spend a weekend with your parents or kids?  
Go on vacation by yourself or with your entire family?

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*Unbored Zine* highlights different activities to get you interested to try something outside of your normal routine. Each issue has a theme, so you can select which (or all) you'd like to try.

All issues are initially released for free digitally on my blog, *larajla.com*. They will be available for a week before they move to my Etsy shop, *larajlacreates*.

[larajla.com](http://larajla.com) / [larajlaenrich.com](http://larajlaenrich.com)

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- What is something you've done that seems "old fashioned?"
- What is something you've done that seems "trendy?"
- What musical instrument do you play?
- What is your favorite television show in 19xx / 20xx?
- What is your favorite song?
- What song(s) do you know all the lyrics to?
- What song is your favorite to sing in the shower?
- What was your favorite concert experience?
- What was your least favorite concert experience?
- List at least five musicians / groups you've seen in concert.
- What is your favorite food?
- What is your favorite restaurant?
- What is your favorite dessert?
- What is your favorite ice cream flavor?
- What is your favorite snack food?
- What is your favorite drink?
- What is your favorite color?
- What is your least favorite color?
- How would you explain your fashion sense / style?

# UNBORED zine

## Family Trivia

### Family Historians

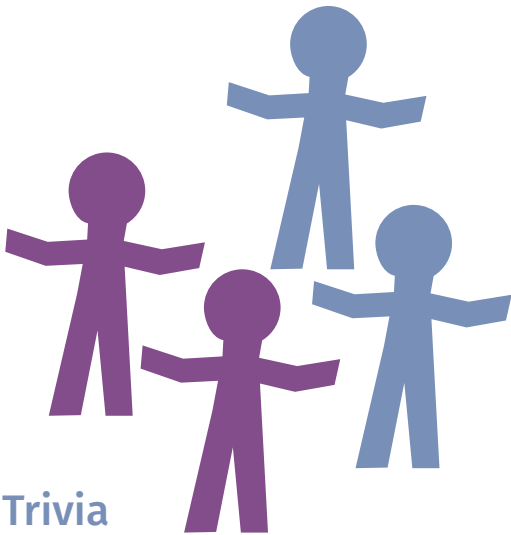
Didn't know you had those, huh?

For a trivia game, you need questions and answers or stories from family members. The best place to start is with those people in your family who are already doing this work.

If someone is interested in genealogy, they can give you a lot of facts and figures about your family tree. They also may have some photos. Alternatively, scrapbookers combine images and text to tell the story of people, places and events in your family. Don't discount the photo bug. (That's someone who likes to take a lot of pictures.) Just viewing photos can help people remember stories and odd facts about family members.

Starting with these family members can help you define the information you want to ask, stories you want to share and more. You can look at the items they have available to start. Record audio or video as you talk to family members. You'll have the entire conversation to review later. As they look at their materials, they'll tell you stories in more depth and some that aren't documented in any fixed form.

You are gathering family information, remember?



## Family Trivia

Want to create something fun and traditional? This issue of *Unbored Zine* describes the process to create a trivia game — for your family.

Trivia based on your family can be fun. Depending on your family, it might be factual or complete nonsense. You can focus on the present or look back into the past. It can be done in a variety of ways, but let's start with the first step. Getting information for your trivia game.

## Family Members

You can ask your family members questions and record responses . . . or you can give them a way to document it. We'll be using the idea of journal cards for this purpose. Each card will have a single question and you'll ask for an answer. Leave the backs of the cards blank in case the answer is LONG or the person writes really big.

Index cards are good for this. I personally prefer to create a sheet of 9-up cards on a sheet of paper. These are the same size as trading cards (2.5" x 3.5") so you can use baseball card sleeves when you're done if you want to keep the cards as examples of their answers and their handwriting.

If you don't want the original cards when you're done making your trivia game, ask your family historians. They'll be gone before you can finish asking the question.

*NOTE: You can create minibooks or forms for the same purpose. The reason we're using cards is that each person can answer the ones they want and return them to you quickly. They can also do one or two a day and feel a sense of accomplishment. The more questions they see, the less likely they'll want to fill them out because it's work!*

- What is your favorite phrase / saying?
- What was your favorite car? Why?
- What color car do you prefer?
- Which car do you wish you'd never purchased?
- What was your favorite vacation?
- What country would you like to visit?
- How many countries have you travelled to? (US doesn't count)
- How many states have you lived in?
- What is your favorite museum?
- If you could choose three things to take with you on a deserted island, what would you take?
- What is the stupidest thing you've done (that you'll admit to)?
- What bad habit do you have that drives others crazy?
- Were you ever arrested? Why?
- Have you gotten a ticket? For what?
- In what year did your family come to the United States? Who?
- Who is the most famous person in your family?
- How many cats do you have?
- How many dogs do you have?
- What was your favorite pet?
- What trick does your pet do that you love?
- What is your favorite animal?
- What is your favorite thing to do at home?
- What is your favorite thing to do locally?
- What are your top three hobbies?
- What do you collect?
- What is your favorite author / book / series?
- What is your favorite television show?
- What is your favorite movie?
- Who is your favorite actor?
- Who is your favorite actress?
- What is your favorite cartoon?
- What super hero power do you want to have?
- What sports do you play?
- What sports have you tried but stopped playing? Why?
- What is your favorite video game?
- What is your favorite board game?
- What is your favorite card game?
- What is your favorite dice game?

- When were your parents married?
- When were your grandparents married?
- Name your siblings from oldest to youngest.
- Name your kids from oldest to youngest.
- How did you meet your spouse?
- What was your first date with your spouse like?
- What was your best date?
- What was your worst date?
- What is your spouse's favorite story about you?
- What is your favorite story about your mom?
- What is your favorite story about your dad?
- What is your favorite story about your grandmother? This story is about XXX.
- What is your favorite story about your grandfather? This story is about xxx.
- What is your favorite story about your sister? This story is about XXX.
- What is your favorite story about your brother? This story is about xxx.
- What is your favorite story about your daughter? This story is about XXX.
- What is your favorite story about your son? This story is about xxx.
- What is your favorite story about your aunt? This story is about XXX.
- What is your favorite story about your uncle? This story is about xxx.

## Playtest

Whenever you create a game, playtesting is very important. You want to know what works and what doesn't. Start with your immediate family. Take their ideas into consideration and improve your game. When you're happy with it, expand your players.

## Some Questions for You . . .

To get you started, the rest of this zine is nothing but questions you might ask your family members.

- What day were you born?
- Where were you born (city / state)?
- What name is on your birth certificate?
- What is your middle name?
- Who were you named after?
- What is your current full name?
- How did you get your nickname? What is it?
- Where did you grow up?
- Who did you want to be like when you grew up?
- Describe yourself.

## What to Ask

This is your trivia game. The questions you choose can drastically affect your game. So, we'll start with those.

Your questions can be basic facts like birth date, birth name and favorite toy as a child. Questions can be around family members who are no longer alive but contributed to your family being in the United States. Is there anyone famous in your family, or even infamous? Oh, the stories that can be shared!

You can stick with your immediate family for questions everyone should know the answers to. Expanding to grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins can make the game more challenging as there are more people to know about. Adding in historical family members might be a bit much for young kids to grasp, however.

Now, look at the questions themselves. Are they simple like "Mom was born in what year?" Or are they more difficult like sharing a family story for everyone's amusement but leaving out part for someone else to complete?



Another item to think about is photos. Adding a baby photo of every family member and having people name them could be a game itself. You might choose to only use photos and get a variety of images that mean different things to different family members. Photos mixed in with the questions breaks up the text and adds interest to your game. Photos might include:

- Extended family members as they look now
- Current family members at different ages
- Historical family members
- Events a family or member attended
- Vacations a family attended
- Houses lived in
- Pets

Well, you get the idea. If your family takes a lot of photos, you might want to consider this.

Variety in your questions can make the trivia game more interesting, but the difficulty increases. Look at the people you intend to entertain.

For my sister, the first time we went to Disney as a family she was pregnant. Her daughter is now a teenager, but answering questions from that trip are limited to the stories my niece has been told. To overcome her lack of knowledge, playing in teams can help. This is something we'll discuss later.

If you have jokers in your family, you might want to gear your trivia game to the pranks they've pulled on each other, jokes that everyone knows the answer to because they've been asked so many times and more. Stay away from embarrassing stories if some family members can't laugh at themselves. Your jokers might even have some great ideas for questions to ask other family members. Perhaps your family trivia game can focus on "would you rather" questions that feature the pranks and jokes they've suffered through . . . just a suggestion!

## Get that Info!

You can ask family members to fill out the cards during family events, holidays or any time you see them. You can also send an email with a list of questions you'd like answered. Whether you tell them what you're doing with the information is entirely up to you.

If you're using cards, make sure they know to put one item on a card. They can write on the front and back for more room. If they want to do more than one answer to a question, ask them to attach a sheet of paper with the additional information. You can also do this if they're known for their large, loopy writing.

For those family members who think they are doctors and write like that . . . ask them to use the cards as prompts and to type it up on their computer or phone and send it to you. Your eyes and frustration will appreciate this extra step.

Be sure to give your family members a due date. If you don't, you may never see the cards again. We're all busy. Without a due date, they'll get to it "as soon as they can." This might be next week, next month or never.

- What was your favorite toy as a child?
- 
- When did you graduate high school?
- Where did you graduate high school?
- What college / university degree did you receive?
- What college / university did you attend?
- What was your favorite school subject?
- What are you learning about now?
- Do you speak a language other than English? If so, what?
  
- What accomplishment are you proudest of?
- What do you wish you'd done instead of walking away from it?
- Who influenced you the most?
- Have you published anything?
- Have you participated in an art show?
- Have you sold items you've made yourself? If so, what?
  
- Were you in the military? Branch.
- What was your favorite job?
- What was your least favorite job?
- "If I could start over, I'd like to be a XXX." (Career / job)
- What did you want to be when you grew up?

### **Game board**

Need a game board? Grab a copy of Trivial Pursuit and use the pieces and game board for your own trivia game. Sharing the elements between the games makes it easier for you.

You can also purchase replacement Trivial Pursuit pieces online and make your own game board.

You don't have to use a game board at all. Paint a checkerboard pattern in your grass with each square big enough to stand on. Each team member gets to move diagonally on a color for each correct answer until they get across the board to the other side. The first one's the winner. Make it more difficult by having two teams and if two members are on diagonal, but touching squares, they can join hands to stop or slow down the other team. The "link" can't be broken so the team member has to backtrack to get around the obstacle. What other things might you include to make it interesting?

As you can see, there are many ways to go about making a game board. Explore different games and find one that works for you.

If you want to play with teams, you'll need to include how you intend to break up into teams as part of your rules. You don't want all the knowledgeable people who sent you questions on one team. Think of this like cliques . . . people are going to want to be together so they can win. Your job is to make sure the teams have equal ability and knowledge. Now, for a few more questions . . .

- Do you want two teams or more?
- Should one person be the spokesperson for the team?
- Do you like everyone yelling out answers?
- Should you include a prop that can be passed around so everyone is aware of the speaker?
- Do you want to record the game sessions as well to help pinpoint items you want to improve or add?

### Scoring

Points are a great way to track correct answers. This works for teams, but allowing individuals to track their own points might be . . . interesting. What's to stop Uncle Joe from marking a few extra points to guarantee he wins?

Look at different ways to keep track of points or whatever you're counting. You might go for simplicity and put a white board in front of everyone and just put marks to tally points.

## Card Layout

Your trivia cards should be like your question cards . . . one question and answer per card.

You may choose to put the answer on one side and the question on the back. You might choose to put both on one side and have a holder to slide the card in so the answer isn't immediately obvious. If you have one person reading the cards, you can put all the information on one side. Since they aren't part of a team, it doesn't matter if they have the answers available.

For a large event like a family reunion, you may choose to "super size" your cards. Print them on 8.5" x 11" sheets and then attaching them to a colored card stock that coordinates with your categories. Your the audience can see the question while you read it.

If you're unsure, make a few different sizes and play with them. Ask your immediate family which they like best and why.

## Gather Your Data

Look at what you collected. Everyone won't return all the cards. Some will not return anything and you might see these later after you've played a few times and they realize they missed the opportunity.

Are the amount of cards / information too much to wrap your brain around? Think of Trivial Pursuit. The cards are broken into categories to make it easier to pick something to ask about. What categories might you use? Here's a few ideas:

- Current family members
- Historic family members
- Divide by ages — 0-5 (before starting school) / 6-12 (pre-teens) / 13-17 (teens) / 18+ (adults)
- Photos only
- Facts only
- Stories only

You also might want to divide them by the information on the cards themselves or even group them by immediate family members.

As you sort your cards into categories, take note of those that are light on information. You may want to add a few questions or follow up with people who haven't responded to make it more interesting.

- You can print out the information on standard paper and attach it to cards (works best with the super-sized cards that are full letter size).

Making your own cards? Stick to card stock. The heavier weight means they'll last longer.

*NOTE: If you prefer rounded corners so they don't catch, you can purchase a punch that will do this for you at most craft stores. It will be a long, tedious job. However, you can do it while watching television, videos, etc.*

Now, the size is something to think about. As I stated before, I like making my cards the size of trading cards — 2.5" x 3.5". I can lay out nine on a standard US letter-size sheet. I can also take advantage of trading card storage systems because there are quite a few available. For example, I recreated my "Cards Against Humanity" set to this size and I have a long box with a single row of cards. It holds hundreds. You can also find templates online to make your own box.

I bet you see why this is an unbored project now. It will take a while to complete this, but the effort will be worth it in the long run.



## Create Your Cards

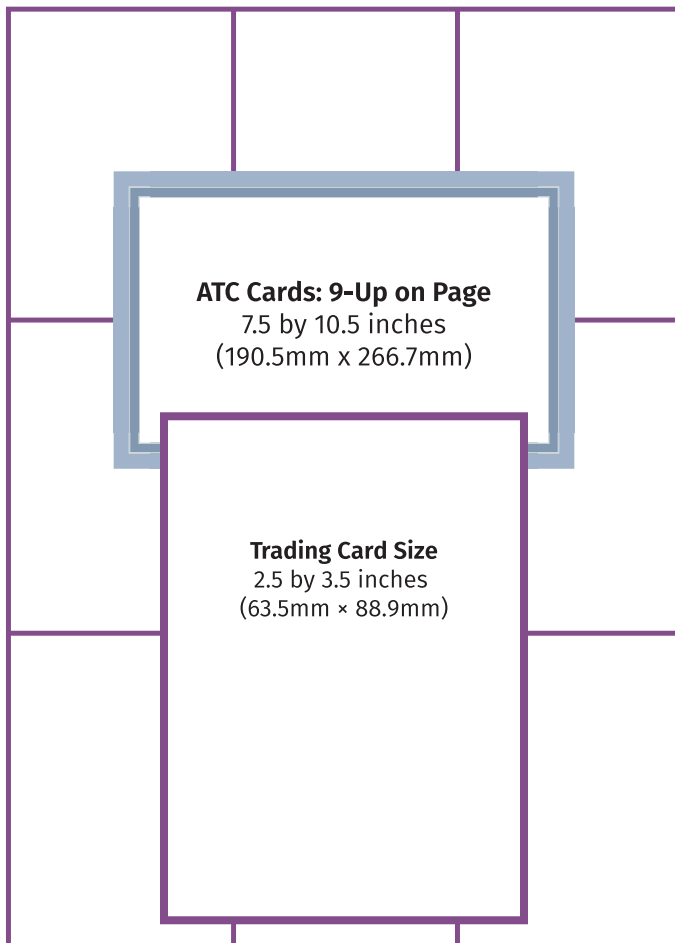
How are you going to play? Do cards make sense or should you try a minibook or other type of media like PowerPoint slides. Yes, you can make one slide the question and the next the answer so this does work.

No, you are not getting a free computer with this zine so you can make a slideshow. You can go to Google Slides to make a presentation online.

You can identify categories by colors, symbols on the cards or other ways. It doesn't matter if you mix the cards so you can read them one after another or if you keep them separate to follow the Trivial Pursuit model.

There are pros and cons to each possibility. Decide the one that's right for YOU!

- You can purchase blank cards and write on them.
- You can print / cut the cards and write on them so you can control the design.
- You can lay them all out in the computer and print the final cards so all you have to do is cut them apart.
- You can download a template from a card game company and have them create the cards for you (the cheater method).



## Making the Rules

Borrowing rules is the easiest way to "make" rules for your game. You've played a lot of games. Think about the rules you liked and those you didn't. If you need to, pull out a rules book to follow. Just remember, the rules you start with may not be the ones you end with.

### **Individuals vs. Teams**

Individual play can be a lot of fun. From taking turns and focusing on one person to a free-for-all style with calling on the first hand raised. Competition can be exhilarating. If you want to encourage individual play, determine how you want it to happen and write it out. You can adapt this to a free-for-all style with a few tweaks. Teams can be viewed as individuals if you have one person only speak for the team, though this person can change.

Unfortunately, if you have a family member who must win (we'll call him Uncle Joe), it can destroy the game. How can you keep Uncle Joe from taking over your trivia game? Be sure to include time-outs if he's really that bad.

As mentioned before, teams work well if you have participants of varying ages and abilities. If one doesn't know the answer, they have others to help.

## Consider Digital

I mentioned a couple ways to digitally create your cards. Let's look a little deeper into the reasons why I recommend this approach.

### **Digital Layout**

Digitally laying out your cards means you can easily fix typographic errors. If a card gets damaged, you can reprint a sheet. More family members want to participate; it's easy to make more. This gives you a lot of flexibility with a final physical product.

The benefit of creating digital files for your cards is that you'll have a back-up. You don't have to worry about original cards being lost . . . or worst the entire deck.

### **Digital Print**

Using a digital print company to print the cards for you can make the process more enjoyable. However, we're focusing on things to do, not giving others things to do. The best part is that once you work with a company, you'll know the quality and can provide new decks easily as you're familiar with the process. You also have the option of ordering multiple sets for other family members.

Some companies also allow you to create a box for your deck of cards. Pretty cool, huh?