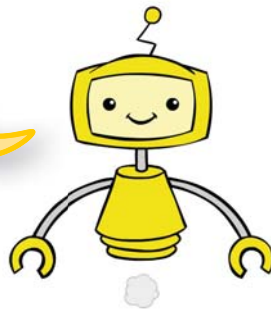


# Who are you?

Have you ever wondered how your parents met? Or where your family came from? Finding out about the history of a family is a wonderful way to find out about the history of both individuals and countries. By now you already know a little about my past. In this module Nina consults her grandmother to help her create a family tree, but is it possible for all families in Indonesia to find out about their family's history? Let's find out.



## LINKS TO:

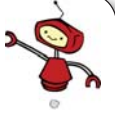
Stage 2, Module 15

Learning Object 2: A box of treasures

## PRIOR LEARNING:

Stage 2

Module 15 Work Sheet 1: *Piecing together a family tree*



## The past is a foreign country

1

The history of a family is often a microcosm of the history of a country, or even of the relationships between several countries. Finding out about your family's past can be a wonderful way to enrich your understanding of yourself, your family, and the history of the countries where your family has lived, worked or travelled.

Throughout the world, records and stories about people's lives are kept by individuals, private organisations, and the government.

The kinds of records that we keep, the information we include in them, and how freely accessible they are, change from country to country, and over time. These things are strongly influenced by cultural differences, and by differences in values, attitudes and beliefs.

When you are doing family history research, there are different kinds of records you can access to help you build a picture of the lives people lived.

Some of the basic information can be recorded in a simple family tree, which is a diagram for recording the relationships between people in your family, as well as when they were born and died. But some of the most fascinating things in your family's history will be about more than when they lived and died: they will be about how they lived. Finding out about your family's life experiences is one of the things that makes history come alive, and helps connect your personal history with the history of others.

Let's find out a little more about what kinds of records can help you find out about a family's history in Australia and in Indonesia.

## Official records

2

Family records are a great way to start researching your history, but how can you find out about the people no one remembers any more, or find details to help you flesh out the story of your family?

In most countries, there are all kinds of records kept by government and private organisations. Many of these records go back centuries, and can be accessed at a library or a government office.

Some of the most common forms of records you might access include:

### Births, deaths and marriages

Most countries keep records of all births, deaths and marriages. In Australia, these records are kept by each state. You can search and get copies of these records from 1788 (the date of settlement) until 100 years ago for births, 30 years ago for deaths, and 50 years ago for marriages. If you are searching for more recent records, you will only be able to get copies of the certificates under specific circumstances (such as if you are related to the person or people named in the record).

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In Australia, these records will include certain information. For example:

- a birth certificate will include the person's name, date and place of birth, their parent's names and sometimes their occupations
- a marriage certificate may contain both people's places of birth, their ages at marriage, the date of the marriage, where it took place, and sometimes their parents' names.
- a death certificate will include the date and place of death, cause of death, where they were living at the time they died, and may also include the names of their parents.

In Indonesia the *Dinas Kependudukan Dan Catatan Sipil* (Population and Civil Registration Agency) serves the same purpose as the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Australia. The agency operates at the provincial level in Indonesia with offices in all regencies. This agency is also responsible for the documentation and issue of the *Kartu Tanda Penduduk (KTP)* or National Identity Card. Interestingly, in Indonesia, if you change your place of residence from one regency or province to another, you are required to notify the agency at both your old and your new address through a *Surat Keterangan Pindah Datang* or a Letter of Transfer of Residence. Throughout Indonesia there are a sizeable number of people who do not formally notify the agency of events such as a birth or a change of residence for a variety of reasons. This means that some children do not have the official paperwork, in this case a birth certificate, required for them to be enrolled at school. In some areas of Indonesia it is estimated that as many as 40 per cent of children are not issued with birth certificates\*.

\* Source: *Suara Merdeka CyberNews* 'Puluhan Ribuan Anak Belum Memiliki Akte Kelahiran', 16 August 2010.

### Census records

A census is used to collect a range of information about people within a state or nation; often the information collected varies from census to census. Most censuses, at a minimum, collect information about a household: who the members of the household are, how old they are, how they are related to each other, what work they do, and so on. Because a census is partly designed to help the government make planning decisions, it will often include questions that relate to current policy and planning concerns.

The most recent *Sensus Penduduk* (Population Census) in Indonesia was conducted in 2010. The data collected was, for the most part, similar to census data collected all over the world. However,

the data collected in the housing section provides an interesting insight into the aspects of Indonesian society that the government feels they need to prioritise. In this section of the census form questions were asked about:

- floor materials of the dwelling
- floor area of the living quarters
- source of lighting
- source of drinking water
- type of toilet
- method of sewerage disposal
- telephone connection
- access to the Internet
- ownership status of dwelling
- proof of land ownership

### The National Archives

In Australia, the government provides access to a range of records that are useful for tracing your family's history through the National Archive. The records maintained by the national archive include immigration records, defence, passports, social security, electoral records, some education and taxation records (such as records about government scholarships, records of who received grants, business registrations, and so on). There are also records about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and individuals.

If your family had contact with the government at any time, it is possible there are records of that encounter that you can access.

In Indonesia the *Arsip Nasional Republik Indonesia (ANRI)*, or the National Archives of the Republic of Indonesian, is responsible for preserving the collective national and cultural memory of Indonesia. Archival institutions in Indonesia have existed since January 28, 1892, when the Dutch East Indies government established *Landarchief*. Today the National Archives of Indonesia is a non-departmental government institution, which is responsible to the President of the Republic of Indonesia. In 2003, Indonesia introduced a joint submission to the UNESCO Memory of the World Register with the Netherlands, South Africa, and Sri Lanka for their archival collections related to the Dutch East India Company (*Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie*, or VOC). As a result Indonesia now holds the largest archive collection related to the VOC in the world. The collection encompasses almost half of the VOC archives worldwide with a total of 15,000 entries housed on 1800 metres of shelf space.

## Accessing information

3

In Australia, you have a right to gain access to information about yourself or your family. This right is entrenched in the *Freedom of Information Act*, which was passed in 1982. Before 1982, the Australian government kept most of the information it collected secret, and citizens did not have a right to demand access to records about themselves.

There are some kinds of information the government can withhold from you. Examples include those where releasing the information to you could impact on national security, defence or international relations. Some information — such as the personal data collected in the census — is sealed for a certain number of years before it is made available to the public.

In Indonesia, 'It's your right to know!' is the motto of *Komisi Informasi Pusat* or the Central Information Commission. This is an independent

agency which has the task of implementing the 2008 *Undang-Undang Keterbukaan Informasi Publik, UU KIP (Transparency of Public Information Law)*, Indonesia's freedom of information law.

As transparency of information is vital to good governance and the development of a vibrant democracy. In Indonesia, citizens are able to access information that is on the public record with some valid exceptions. These include information that: obstructs law enforcement; affects the protection of intellectual property rights and protection from unhealthy business competition; threatens state security; endangers Indonesia's natural resources; damages foreign relations; and risks the exposure of information which is of a personal nature, such as personal wills and other information that cannot be disclosed by law.

## To the dearly departed

4

For all Indonesians it is very important to honour the deceased. When they are informed of a death Indonesians will immediately go to the family of the deceased to offer support and condolences. All death formalities are handled by the immediate family with the emotional support of as many friends, relatives and associates as possible. For Muslims, in particular, the time from death to burial is rarely more than 24 hours. Indonesians refer to the deceased by the honorific *almarhum* meaning 'the late ...' or 'the deceased ...'

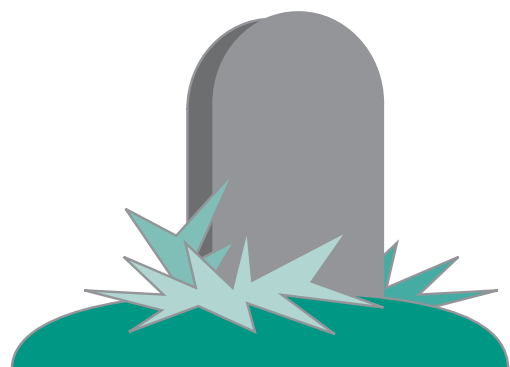
➔ For example:

Almarhum Soekarno adalah Presiden pertama Republik Indonesia.  
*The late Soekarno was the first President of the Republic of Indonesia.*

There are a number of words in Indonesian for death depending on the nature of death and the level of formality of language used. Below is a list of the terms:

- *mati* is used to refer to the death of animals, non-human living things and abstract concepts

- *tewas* is used to refer to death as a result of accident or misfortune, or deaths in the arena of war
- *meninggal dunia* (literally, to leave the world) is used to refer neutrally and respectfully to the death of humans
- *wafat* is the more formal version of *meninggal dunia*. It sometimes appears on a grave stone.



## Marriage and Islam

5

In modern Indonesian society, monogamy is the norm.

As a country, Indonesia has the world's largest Muslim population, with 85.1 per cent of the population being Muslim (2010 Population Census). The Muslim religion allows polygamy provided that the husband has both the financial means and the personal character traits to treat each of his wives equally.

The issue of polygamy is frequently the subject of public discussion in Indonesia. There is a lack of willingness in government circles to outlaw the practice, although it is discouraged. For instance, in the military and civil service it is forbidden to have more than one wife.

## What's in a Balinese name?

6

There is a unique way of naming children used by the people of Bali and the western parts of the neighbouring island of Lombok. Since many Balinese people are Hindus, most names are Hindi or Sanskrit, but some people still use native Balinese names.

Generally, everyone in Bali uses these birth order names to refer to each other, and to address each other. Whether the baby is a boy or a girl each person receives one of four names based on the order of their birth into the family. Though there are variations in the four names, due to a variety of social and geographical factors, the four names that are frequently repeated are:

- *Wayan, Gede* or *Putu* for the first-born child
- *Made, Nengah* or *Kadek* for the second
- *Nyoman* or *Komang* for the third
- *Ketut* for the fourth.

The naming cycle is repeated for subsequent children.

Balinese society is loosely based on the Hindu caste system, where society is stratified into hereditary groups. There are four groups in Bali:

- *Sudra*: the peasants who make up about 90 per cent of the population.
- *Wesya*: merchants and administrative officials
- *Ksatrya*: the warrior caste, which includes some nobility and kings
- *Brahmana*: the holy men and priests.

The caste of a person is indicated by their title, with the exception of the *Sudra* who have no specific titles.

Titles for these are:

- *Brahmana* caste: *Ida Bagus*
- *Ksatrya*: *Anak Agung* or *Dewa*
- *Wesyas*: *I Gusti*.

'Given' names may also sometimes be chosen in modern Bali due to the influence of popular culture or politics. Like some other Indonesian cultures, Balinese do not use family names.

Source: \**Bali Post* 'Gelar Ida Ayu untuk Rai Srimben, Wujud Protes Bung Karno pada Kasta', 16 June 2011)

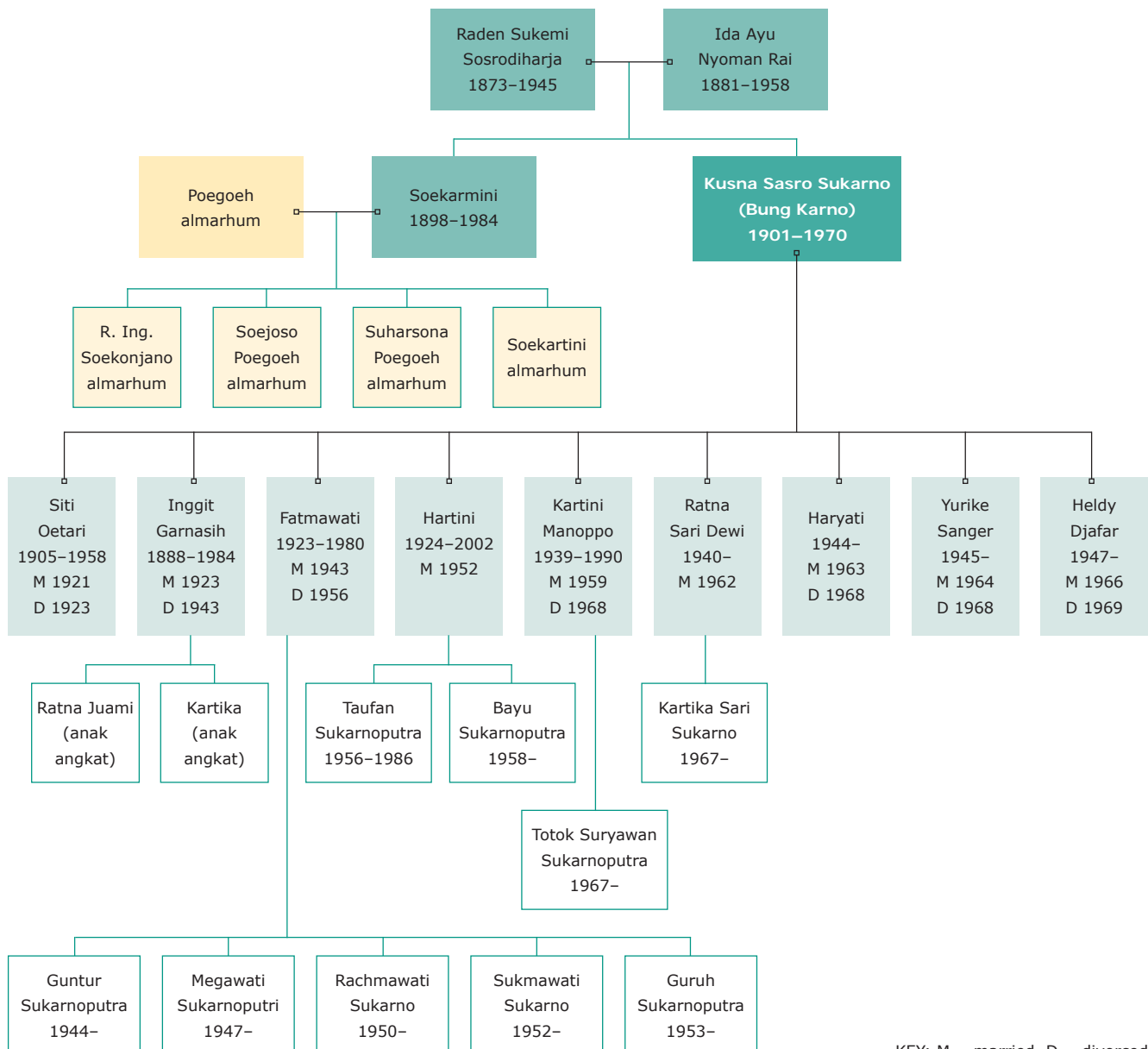
## Silsilah (family trees)

A family tree is a type of chart that shows relationships between different generations of a family. As you saw in the Learning Object a family tree stems from a 'root' or 'seed' ancestor and contains different lines, or branches, to represent different sides and generations of each family. Family trees start with an individual and can go in both (or either) directions showing either their descendants (children, grandchildren and so on) or their ancestors (parents, grandparents and so on) and sometimes both.

If you look closely at a family tree you will find more than just a list of family members, you will also find clues about the social and cultural norms of the target culture.

Let's take a look the family tree of the proclaimer of independence and the first president of the Republic of Indonesia, Sukarno.

**Sukarno's family tree**



KEY: M = married D = divorced

**Exercise 1**

Using Sukarno's family tree, answer the following questions. Some of your answers may require some additional research.

1.1 In what year was Sukarno born?

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1.2 How old was he when he died?

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1.3 Who were the parents of Sukarno?

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1.4 Where was his mother from? How do you know this?

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1.5 How many generations are represented in this family tree?

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1.6 Why do you think some people on the family tree are listed as *almarhum* rather than giving specific details of their birth and death dates?

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**1.7 Why do the names of a number of Sukarno's children end with either *putri* or *putra*?**

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**1.8 Which of Sukarno's children made a significant contribution to the post-Suharto political landscape? Describe their achievements.**

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**1.9 Prior to becoming the first President of the Republic of Indonesia, Sukarno had three wives; he married six more wives during his presidency. What does this reveal about past and current cultural and religious practices in Indonesia?**

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### Exercise 3

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**Create a family tree, in Indonesian, for your family reaching back for as many generations as you are able.**

Provide as much detail as you can, such as dates of birth and death, place of birth, and so on.

## Exercise 4

Complete the following profile, in Indonesian, of one of the people in your family tree.

<b>Nama:</b>		
<b>Nama panggilan:</b>		
<b>Tanggal lahir:</b>		
<b>Tempat lahir:</b>		
<b>Tanggal wafat:</b>		
<b>Tempat wafat:</b>		
<b>Pekerjaan:</b>		
<b>Suami/Isteri:</b>		
<b>Tanggal perkawinan:</b>		
<b>Tempat perkawinan:</b>		
<b>Anak:</b>		
<b>(Nama)</b>	<b>(Tanggal lahir)</b>	<b>(Tanggal wafat)</b>
<b>Tempat tinggal:</b>		
<b>(Tanggal)</b>	<b>(Alamat)</b>	
<b>Peristiwa penting dalam hidup Beliau:</b>		
<b>(Tanggal)</b>	<b>(Umur)</b>	<b>(Peristiwa)</b>