

## Core Skills Analysis

### Social Studies

- Sarah learned about family structure by identifying and organizing family members into a visual family tree format.
- She explored relationships and generational links within her family, which promotes understanding of heritage and ancestry.
- By replicating her family in The Sims 4, Sarah practiced research and synthesis skills to accurately depict family members' traits and connections.
- The activity encouraged reflection on personal identity and the roles family members play across generations.

### Technology and Digital Literacy

- Sarah enhanced her digital skills by using The Sims 4 software to create a detailed, interactive model of her family tree.
- She demonstrated creativity and problem-solving as she selected or customized in-game characters to represent real family members.
- The project promoted understanding of virtual representation and how digital tools can be used to visualize real-world concepts.
- She practiced spatial organization and interface navigation within a simulation game context.

### Tips

To deepen Sarah's understanding of family history and digital presentations, encourage her to interview relatives for stories and details to enrich her Sims characters. Taking the project further, she might create a written or multimedia family history portfolio that complements the digital tree. Another engaging extension would be to explore ancestral cultures or traditions, integrating that into the Sims characters' environments or narratives. Introducing basic genealogy research methods can also strengthen her skills and appreciation of historical record keeping while reinforcing critical thinking about how family identities evolve.

### Book Recommendations

- [Me on the Map](#) by Joan Sweeney: An excellent picture book that helps children understand their place in the world through maps and family geography.
- [The Family Tree Toolkit: A Comprehensive Guide to Uncovering Your Ancestry and Researching Genealogy](#) by Angie Bush: A beginner-friendly guide for young readers curious about tracing their family history step by step.
- [If I Were Your Family Tree](#) by Mary Elizabeth Salzmann: A creative exploration of family trees through storytelling to engage children's interest in their ancestry.

### Learning Standards

- TEKS Social Studies §113.16.3(A): Identify family members and describe how families are similar and different.
- TEKS Social Studies §113.16.5(B): Explain how cultural beliefs and practices influence individuals and families.
- TEKS Technology Applications §126.17.4(C): Use technology tools to create and communicate information.
- TEKS Technology Applications §126.17.5(A): Apply critical thinking and problem-solving skills when using technology.

### **Try This Next**

- Create a worksheet where Sarah maps out the traits, hobbies, and stories of each family member before replicating in Sims 4.
- Have Sarah write a short biographical story for 3 family members she recreated, explaining their role and personality in the family.