

The questions we ask before the Hundred is written

Answer what you know. "I don't know" is useful. Add more people or stories on a separate page if you need room. Your family's details are used to draft a private Century and reviewed by its commissioning person before publication.

Return the completed PDF to founder@thecenturysystem.com. You may also print and handwrite the answers, then email photographs or scans. Ask us for a postal address if you prefer mail.

Your name

Your email address

Telephone, if useful

The family

What family name should appear on the Century?

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I. The occasion

Do you already have a family Century, adventure list, book, Wheel or other prototype?

What should we preserve, revise or add?

Is this for a particular occasion?

Christmas, a reunion, a wedding, an anniversary or a summer together

If it is a gift, who is it for, and who is giving it?

What is the date you need it in hand?

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Do you expect this to be played once, or every year?

Where does the family gather, and when?

Include the main occasion and smaller gatherings.

Which places should carry the most weight?

Which ancestral places matter but are no longer regularly visited?

How many individual Passbooks do you expect to need, and which pieces should be ready first?

Printed Passbooks, stamps, physical or digital Wheel, private boards; give an approximate number of children and adults.

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Do you have a preferred color for the Passbook?

Tell us about a family color, an object to match, or colors you would avoid.

What image or symbol would you like on the Passbook cover?

A coat of arms, photograph, favorite design, landmark or something else. Describe it here. Email the image file to founder@thecenturysystem.com with your family name and the email address you used on this form.

II. Who plays it

Who will be your King or Queen?

The person who buys the Century is often not the person who should hold it.

Who should be a Keeper, and in which household or city?

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Who makes the final decision on names, facts, adventures, privacy and print approval?

Who will be playing?

List households on separate lines; include names, relationships, approximate age groups and where they live. Add as many as needed.

Who is the oldest member of the family, and who is the youngest?

Would anyone need a different way to complete an adventure?

Consider age, distance, mobility, schedules or other barriers.

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III. The places

The original family house — street and town.

Where did family members first arrive in this country?

Separate a remembered route from one confirmed by a document.

The church, temple or hall the family belonged to.

The schools.

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Where the family is buried.

The town or country the family came from.

The place the family went every summer, or every Sunday.

Somewhere from a family story that may or may not still be standing.

A workplace — the mill, the shop, the plant, the firm somebody gave their life to.

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What places does the family actually visit and enjoy together now?

IV. The table

The dish nobody makes anymore.

Whose recipe does everyone still want?

Include the small details that make it theirs, not just the name of the dish.

The restaurant, bakery, pizza place, deli or bar the family has always gone to.

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What is always on the table at the holiday?

What does the family drink, and what is the toast?

Is there a recipe that exists only in somebody's head?

What food or practical skill would the family like to learn together?

It can belong in the Hundred even if nobody currently knows how.

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V. The people and the stories

Name your four grandparents.

Can anyone name all eight above them?

Who is the matriarch or patriarch of the family — living or dead?

Who is the storyteller?

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Who has the photographs?

Which stories get told when the family gathers?

For each, give a short title, who remembers it, where and when it happened, and what happened. Add different versions if people remember it differently.

Who has never been asked about their life, and should be?

Is there someone the family lost touch with?

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Which stories are enjoyable for children, and which are better kept among adults?

VI. Papers, photographs and the name

Does anyone hold naturalization papers, a passenger manifest, letters or a family bible?

What is the oldest photograph the family owns, and who is in it?

Are there photographs nobody can label?

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What spellings has the family name worn?

How is the name pronounced, and does anyone know what it means?

Has anyone had their DNA tested?

This is optional.

VII. Traditions, and what is unresolved

What happens every year without fail?

A song, joke, shared ritual or family custom.

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What the family used to do and stopped.

The question nobody in the family can answer.

What does the family enjoy doing together now? What feels forced or should be left out?

What should count for someone far away or unable to do the physical version?

Should a witness, photograph, recording or Keeper confirmation be used?

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Is this Century private to the family?

Are any names, photographs, stories or children's details excluded even from the private edition?

Anything else we should know.