

Lessons that Explore Birth date and Identity

Note: It is not uncommon for refugee children not to know their true birthday. Birth records may not have been kept in their home countries, or may have been lost during the migration journey. Teachers are advised to determine this situation before beginning lessons on birthdays and then to decide if the lessons are appropriate for their students.

Lesson – On the day I was born... a Family Interview

Objectives:

Writing/speaking → Students generate interview questions (who, what, when, where, how, why)

Speaking/listening → Students ask parent(s) interview questions

Listening/writing → Students listen to and record parents' answers

Reading/speaking → Students share information collected with their classmates

Procedure:

1. Review of *who what when where why how* question forms
2. **Brainstorm** → Where could you look to find information about the day you were born?
 - Newspapers

- The Internet
- Parents

3. **Brainstorm** → What do you want to know about the day you were born?

- Generate questions as a group.
- Record answers on chart paper.
- Guide discussion so that students come up with questions similar to the attached recording sheet.

4. **Interview Parents** → Give students recording sheets and get them **to ask their parents** the questions. Tell them they can use their first language if they need to, but should record their answers in English.

5. **Students share their birthday interviews with the class.**

6. **Students write paragraphs about the day they were born.**

7. **On the following two pages are useful handouts:**

- a) Parent Interview Recording Sheet - "On the day I was born . . ."
- b) Paragraph Organizer - "Let me tell you about the day I was born"

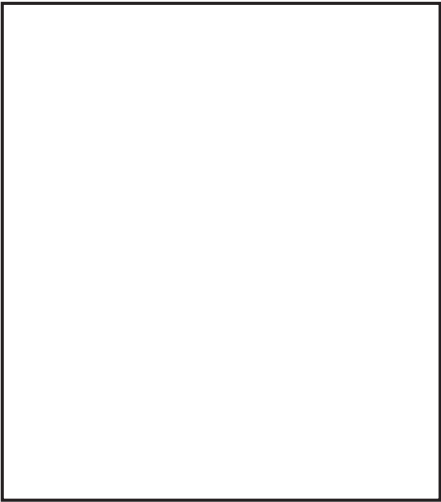
A list of wonderful read aloud books about names and their meanings can be found at: www.state.lib.la.us/empowerlibrary/storybooks%20about%20names.pdf

On the day I was born . . .



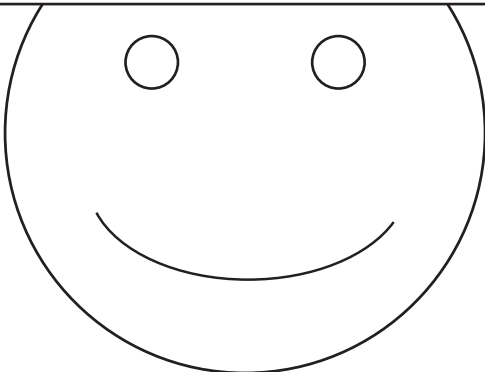
My _____ chose my name _____
because _____.

This is what I looked like



My parents felt

My brothers and sisters felt



	Where	
Day		Month
	Year	

Let me tell you about the day I was born.

I was born on _____,
in _____.

On the day I was born the weather was _____
_____.

I was named _____ by my _____.

My _____ chose my name because _____
_____.

My name means _____.

When they met me, my parents felt _____,
_____ and _____.

My brothers and sisters felt _____.

My family says I looked _____.