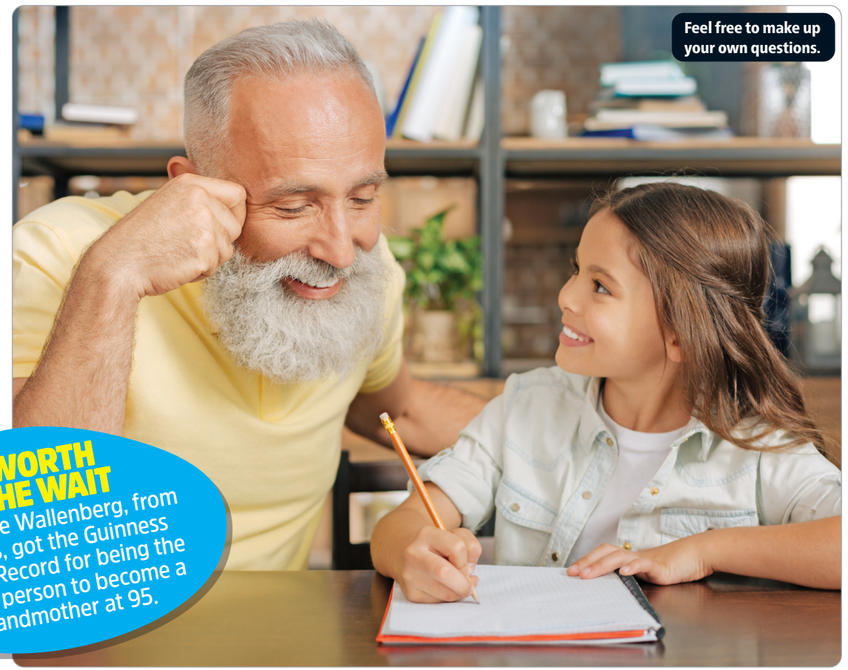
Interview a grandparent

Make a record of your relative's childhood to share with family.



WORTH THE WAIT
Marianne Wallenberg, from the US, got the Guinness World Record for being the oldest person to become a grandmother at 95.

Have you heard of Grandparents' Day? It's on 6 October this year and it's a day for grandparents and children to show how much they love and appreciate each other. To mark the occasion, why don't you interview a grandparent about their childhood?

Speaking to grandparents (or any older person) is a brilliant way to learn more about them, as well as about the past. It will show how things have changed – such as what people ate or the games they played – and could reveal how big events in the world affected people's lives. There are some questions on the opposite page to help you get started but first, here are some tips on how to interview a grandparent – and what you can do next:

Decide how you'll do it

Set up a time to do the interview when you can be uninterrupted and relaxed. It's best to talk face to face but if you can't, a phone call or video chat will do. Try to record the conversation. People often talk faster than you can write, so you might miss something. Also, when you listen back to the recording you might have more questions to ask later. Can you video it or use a voice recorder? Ask an adult for help.

Get the best out of it

Make sure you are prepared and have all your questions in front of you. You might have your own questions. Ask a parent if they know anything that would be interesting to talk about. During your interview, listen carefully and try not to interrupt too much. If you think of an extra question while they are talking, note it down so you can ask it when there is a natural break in the conversation.

Create a record to keep

You can share the video of your interview with the family, or turn it into a memory book. Write out the questions and answers (or just the best bits) neatly, or use what you learned to write a story of your grandparent's childhood or a collection of fun facts. Ask them if they have any photos you could use to illustrate it – perhaps a family picture or a school photo. You could also add drawings of your own.

Do more together

Why not use what you learn to have fun with your older person now? You could read each other's favourite books and talk about them; try cooking each other's favourite dish together and decide which you like best; or play your favourite games. We'd love to see what you do – and perhaps feature it in a future issue. Take photos of what you do together and ask an adult to send them to *hello@theweekjunior.co.uk*

Head to theweekjunior.co.uk/activityhub for more crafts and recipes.

Here are some questions to get you started but feel free to think up your own. Don't worry if you make a mistake – you can download extra copies of these at theweekjunior.co.uk/grandparents

Start here...

1. Where did you go on holiday as a child?
2. Did you have or want any pets?
3. What was your favourite meal when you were my age?
4. What was your favourite toy?
5. What was your favourite game and why?
6. What did you most enjoy doing when you were my age?
7. What was your favourite book when you were young?
8. Which sport did you most enjoy at school?
9. What was your favourite subject at school?
10. Who was your favourite teacher at school and why?
11. Did you ever get into trouble?
12. Who was your best friend and what did you like about them?
13. What did you want to be when you grew up?
14. Did you get pocket money? How often and how much?
15. What was the most important thing your parents taught you?
16. What do children have now that you wish you'd had?
17. What is the best piece of advice you were ever given?
18. What do you wish you could tell the 10-year-old you?

WIN

We're giving three lucky grandparents the chance to win a year's subscription to *The Week Junior*, so that you can read it and enjoy it together. Ask an adult to enter by scanning the QR code here and following the instructions.

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