



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Ancestors Online

In the United States, many people want to know more about their family histories. Finding out about one's ancestors, though, was often very difficult in the past. Nearly all Americans have ancestors who were immigrants from various countries. Their family histories are often ( 30 ). Moreover, because people moved around a lot, records for one family were often kept in churches, local government offices and libraries in different parts of the country. However, new developments in technology have made learning about one's ancestors much easier. For this reason, ( 31 ) in this area has increased among ordinary people.

By far the biggest factor behind this has been the growth of the Internet. Many government records have now been put online and people can search these databases for the names of relatives. The biggest of these is the 1940 census, a study in which officials visited every house in the United States and asked detailed questions about the people who lived there. The ( 32 ) can now be accessed for free on the Internet. Many people use this information on the Statue of Liberty - Ellis Island Foundation website, which provides information about the millions of passengers who arrived in New York Harbor to settle in the United States between 1892 and 1954.

Another development has been social networking sites. Many people use these sites to contact relatives they have never met. These relatives often have more information on common ancestors, including photographs. They can also introduce people to other relatives. These sites make it possible for people to contact family members that they have never heard of before. ( 33 ) these developments, more and more people are filling in the details of their family histories. In fact, more than 9 million Americans now describe researching their ancestors online as their hobby.

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|-----|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 30. | a. disappointing | b. complicated | c. helpful     | d. available  |
| 31. | a. trouble       | b. tourism     | c. interest    | d. employment |
| 32. | a. results       | b. experiments | c. designs     | d. courses    |
| 33. | a. Compared with |                | b. In spite of |               |
|     | c. Apart from    |                | d. Thanks to   |               |