



## L'ARBRE GÉNÉALOGIQUE

Here is an activity for practicing family vocabulary that can be modified for any age from elementary students to high school. There is nothing particularly unique that you haven't done before in its basic goal, but there are a few ways to turn a vocabulary practice into a game. The activity is to fill in the names on the leaves of the family tree (*l'arbre généalogique*) according to descriptions provided.

1. For younger students, you might transfer the tree (see page 42) to large paper and tape it to the floor or the board. Read the clues to them and together they will fill in the tree.
2. For middle and high school students, divide into teams, giving each team a set of clues on individual index cards and they work together to complete the tree. To keep everyone in focus, I usually insist each member of the team fill in an individual tree, forcing all students to participate and help each other.
3. My favorite addition to this game came with the ingenious invention of post-its. (I've searched for its proper French term, but the responses from my French friends is always: «*Tu veux dire un post-it!*» If you have something more official, please let us know!) They come in different sizes and colors. For teams, use two colors. You can put just the names of the family members on them (giving the team the descriptions on paper) or include the descriptions on the post-it with the names. Stick them in visible places around the room and teams need to find the post-its in their color and attach them onto a master tree for their team. This makes it part comprehension, part treasure hunt, and everyone keeps moving!
4. Additional clues can be added, especially if you'd like every student in the class to have one clue to verify. High school students could add all sorts of family members, and don't forget *les animaux domestiques*.
5. For more advanced students, have each team create a tree for the other team to figure out, drawing their own *arbre généalogique* and writing up their own clues to challenge the other team. *Amusez-vous bien!*

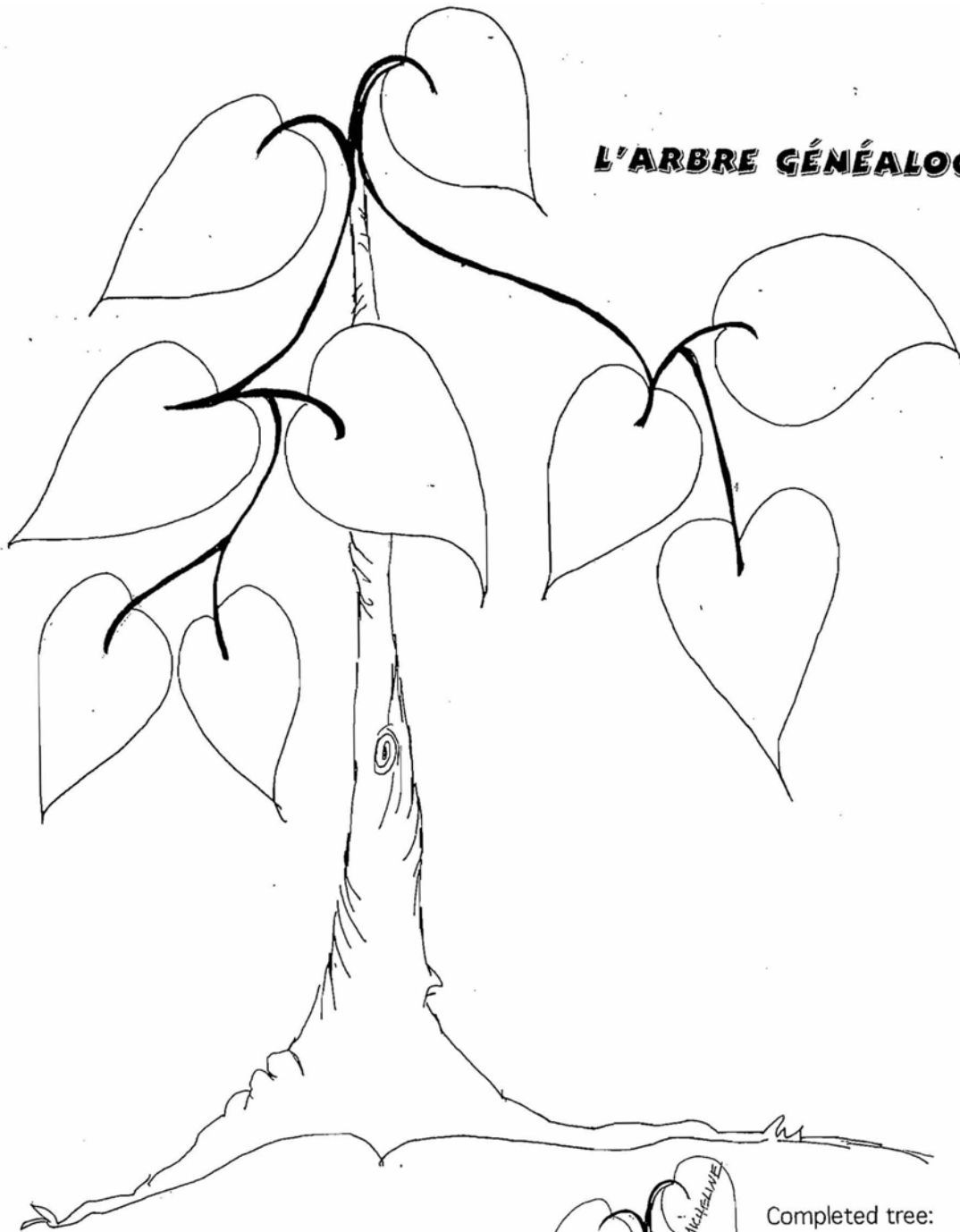
## SAMPLE CLUES:

1. Je m'appelle Michel. Ma fille s'appelle Marie et mon fils s'appelle Christian.
2. Je m'appelle Annick. Ma cousine s'appelle Louise.
3. Je m'appelle Christian. Ma femme est Sylvie.
4. Je m'appelle Marie. Mon mari s'appelle Jean-Paul.
5. Je m'appelle Sylvie. Mon beau-père est Michel.
6. Je m'appelle Micheline. J'ai trois petits-enfants.
7. Je m'appelle Jean-Paul. Ma belle-soeur s'appelle Sylvie.
8. Je m'appelle Roger. Ma tante s'appelle Sylvie.
9. Je m'appelle Louise. Je suis fille unique.

We invite FLES\* and middle school teachers to share ideas, classroom gimmicks, games for oral interaction, National French Week activities, and successful lessons with other AATF members. Join the teacher network! Send your ideas to Elizabeth Miller, 74 Tuscaloosa Avenue, Atherton, CA 94027; fax: (650) 342-7623.

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Completed tree:

