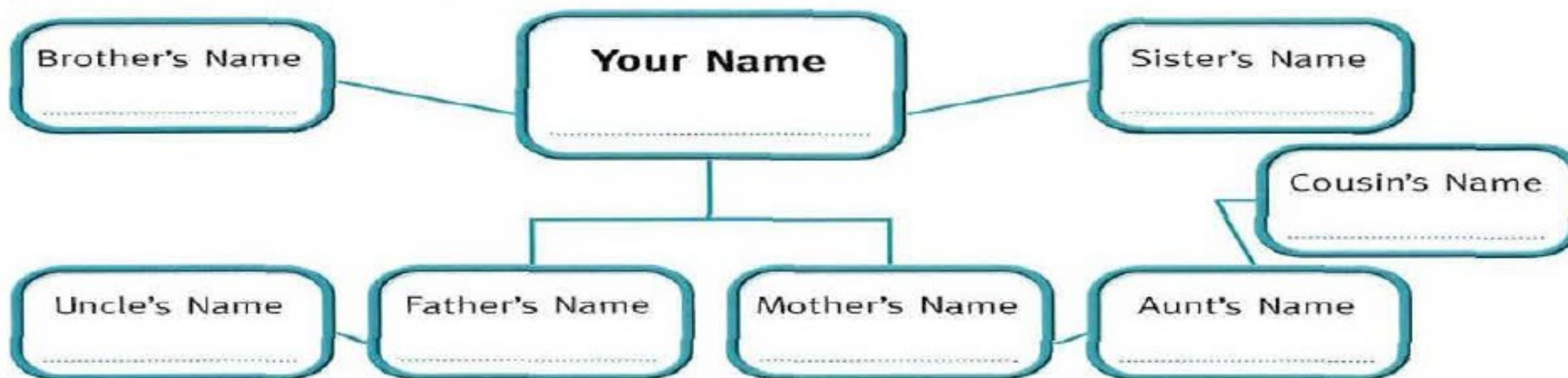




## Warm-up

- Fill in the family tree with celebrity names. Who is your father? Is your mother a politician or a movie star?



- Interview a classmate using the questions below - they should be about your real family, not the family you made up above.
  - Are you the youngest or oldest in your family?
  - How many cousins do you have?



# Family

● Read the passage.

Track 16

Our first relationships in life are with family. Our parents and siblings are our first friends and our first teachers. As we grow up, we still cherish those relationships. However, families today are very different from families in the past.

In the past it was more common for families to have many children. The average American family had 8 children in the year 1800. Now the average family has only 2 children. What is the reason for this change? It may be because many women no longer stay at home to raise children. If they have careers outside the home, they may wish to keep their jobs rather than stay home. Many women are waiting until they are older to have a child, and then may choose to have only one. Now it's not unusual to be an only child.

Other countries have also followed the trend toward smaller families. Sociologists say it happened as they became wealthier. In areas affected by poverty, having more children is seen as a benefit. Children can earn extra money for the family. In richer places, people have greater access to birth control. It's easier for them to plan a smaller family.

Growing up with many siblings teaches a child how to relate to people. Many children can also help with the home or the family business. Then again, parents

with many children don't have as much time for each one. Being an only child means you have your

parents' undivided attention.

They also have more money to spend on you. However, you don't have siblings to play with.





**Comprehension Check**

Answer the questions.

1. What was the average number of children for American families in 1800?
2. What is the average number of children in an American family now?
3. When did other countries start having smaller families?
4. How does poverty affect family size?
5. What is changing in women's lives?

**Vocabulary Check**

Complete each sentence with a word or words from the box.

cherish

average

trends

sociologists

relate

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ the memory of my grandparents.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ grade on the test was C.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ say that people need to have strong communities.
4. Playing sports helped me learn to \_\_\_\_\_ to other kids.
5. The latest \_\_\_\_\_ in fashion can be found in magazines.

**Think About It**

1. Think about the advantages and disadvantages of a large family.

**Advantages of a large family**

- Family members are never alone.
- 
- 

**Disadvantages of a large family**

- Less attention for each child
- 
- 

2. Think about the advantages and disadvantages of a small family.

**Advantages of a small family**

- More attention for each child
- 
- 

**Disadvantages of a small family**

- Only children may be spoiled or bored.
- 
-



# Discussion Questions

● Discuss the questions in groups.

1. What do you think of the change from larger to smaller families? Support your opinion.
2. Do you think children from large families have an advantage or a disadvantage? Explain your answer.
3. How does family size affect the way family members relate to each other? Support your opinion.
4. How does family size affect a family's finances? Support your opinion.
5. Do you think the trend will ever go back to larger families? Support your opinion.



**Choose one statement. Debate the statement in groups.**

(One group agrees with the statement, the other group disagree with the statement.)

1. It's better to have big families.
2. Children from small families are more likely to be successful.
3. Having large families is foolish and irresponsible.