

- **"Roots" Ancestors Map**

**Levels 3 and Above** — Make a "Roots" Ancestor Map. Get a very large map of the world and mount it on the wall (preferably on corkboard or homosote). Students will do **Interviews** and **research** (cf. "Roots"—Oral History) in their families to see where their grandparents, great-grandparents, or great-great grandparents came from. Each class can do their own family tree/class tree or ancestors map.

**Materials Needed:**

**A large wall map of the world.** (if you cannot find one large enough, use a small outline map, put it on a transparency and place on an overhead projector. Tape an old white (or light color) sheet to a corkboard or homosote (or hang on a wall) and project the image of your country and other countries of family origin onto the sheet. Outline the countries and/or sections of continents on the sheet with dry markers.

**Dry Markers:** You can use different colors for different continents or countries

**String:** Lightweight string or heavy-duty thread that won't break easily. Can also use different colors.

**Tacks/Staples/Pushpins**-(clear): Depending upon the kind of backing material used (corkboard, homosote or similar substance), test to see which best holds the string in place.

1. Locate on the map the city, county or state (depending upon map size) where your parish is located. Then locate the areas where families of the class members originated.
2. From the country of their ancestral homelands, stretch colored strings or heavy thread to the town or state where their family lives now.  
(Note: If the class is small, each person can stretch as many strings as needed to the different countries of family origin. If the class is large, and many families come from the same country, it may be sufficient to identify only the countries, without identifying each family or family member, or lists can be provided at the sides of the map). Some students will have more strings going abroad, while others may stretch only to other places in North America. (Students who are not able to obtain their family history may wish to interview other older parishioners who do not have children, or whose children and grandchildren are not in your parish.) Try to have as many parishioners as possible represented on the map