Ancestry and Race in Oregon

Ancestry

Ancestry refers to your parents, your grandparents, and other relatives from whom you are descended. An important element of ancestry is the country (or countries) that you or your ancestors came from before arriving in the United States.

Race

As used in the U.S. Census, race refers to social and cultural characteristics as well as ancestry. Because each of us has our own understanding of our family’s culture and ancestry, the U.S. Census allows us to identify our own race, culture and ethnicity.