

# Asian Genealogy: Getting Started

## Resources

5 November 2014

### FamilySearch.org

- Clan genealogies (族譜)
- Family registries (戶籍)

### FamilySearch.org Wiki: [familysearch.org/learn/wiki](http://familysearch.org/learn/wiki)

- Country research guides: “China,” “Korea,” “Japan”

### Naming Conventions:

- Generational (起派/字派) first character or common radical of first character
- Birth order (伯, 仲...) second character

### Characters:

- Simple Ideographs
- Combinations of radical (meaning) and phonetic (imperfect, not based on Mandarin) components
- Stroke order and stroke count to looked up characters in dictionaries
- Many, many homophones (so the character holds the meaning, not the sound)
- Romanization changes over time
- Traditional vs. Simplified (Mainland China)

### Date Issues:

- Era names and years
- Sexagenary cycle of 10 “stems “ and 12 “branches” for years
- Lunar calendar (begins between January 21 and February 21, i.e. 3 to 7 weeks off Western calendar); “11<sup>th</sup> month” ≠ “November”
- Age calculation: a year old at birth and counted up over the Lunar New Year (rather than birthday)

### Native language resources:

- “100 Family Surnames,” [baijiaxing.51240.com](http://baijiaxing.51240.com)
- Chinese wiki: [baike.baidu.com](http://baike.baidu.com)
- Korean wiki: [ko.wikipedia.org](http://ko.wikipedia.org)