

PHOTO PROJECTS

If you want to try some kind of photo project decide what type it will be and what will be the focus of the collection. Will it be a book, photos displayed on a wall or shared in some other way? Will it consist only of people? Will it provide names, relationships, dates, locations, etc. In other words, how much information will you provide with the pictures? Will there be photos of the village and surrounding area? How many pictures/pages do you want to have? You will probably have many more pictures available than you will be able to use. Think about all these things ahead of time before you actually start making your collection.

Try to get people from the community interested in the project and working with students. You may need lots of help in tracking down certain types of photos and in identifying some people and places. Sometimes you will have to ask several different people about the same photo.

Try to make your printed information as accurate as possible. Have everything carefully reviewed before your final product is finished.

In choosing photographs for reproduction, be sure to get the clearest pictures you can. There may be several different photos available of one person or place. Try to use the photo which will copy best. Be careful not to choose too many of one family or place and get as many different types of photos as possible. When you are first collecting and copying photos, get more than you think you will need so that you will be able to make choices.

Perhaps you want to do more than just make a collection of old photographs. There may have been some really special event or aspect of community life that you think could be the subject of a photo collection. Maybe you want to try to get a picture of everyone who lived in the village 50 years ago. Projects of this type provide important historical documentation, but they take a lot of research. For example, if you are doing a certain time period, you may need to get census records or other official lists of people. If your village is small, perhaps the list can be made from the memory of the elders, but memories are not always accurate and any additional written information would be good to have.

In preparing projects like these, you as students will learn a lot about your community and its history. You will also provide something of lasting value to the whole community.

The photography section in [You and Aunt Ari](#) may also be helpful.

