

"That's impossible!" shouted a girl named Jessica. "Then how can there be any pencils if nobody knows how to make them?"

"That's a great question!" replied Carl. "Let me come back to that after we talk a little more." He then turned around and drew a bunch of lines on the whiteboard.

"This is kind of like a family tree, which lets us see all of the people who help make us who we are—our parents, our grandparents, and so on."

"Look at that pencil in your hands," he said. "What are the parts that make up a pencil, and where did they all come from? What is the pencil's family tree?"

