BLACK ELK begins with the shaman justifying telling his story, which "I would not tell were it not the story of all life." In this spirit this thinksheet shares with you my bio-roots, inviting you to use its methods as model for investigating your own. ...First, I did my geneaology, using copies of the "Pedigree Chart" (Geneaological Society of Utah/36)....Then I drew a pictures of a double root-system (maternal and paternal), with three shoots (myself and my two sisters) emerging through the earth surface. I used earth-layering to represent immigration generations, as none of my roots stop in the Western Hemisphere (and none are in Africa or Australia, and none I can unconver [probably none, though there's a strong rumor of some Jewish blood] are in Asia--so all are in Europe).... Then I did three more visuals and abandoned them all in favor of the root-picture, but you may want to try one or more: (1) A bar graph showing no immigrants before the grandparental generation, then the startling increase [from 4 to 15] in the following generation [with only one certain beyond that]; (2) Then I put all ancestors (by number, as on the "Pedigree Charts") on a map of Europe, and found I'm decidedly an NWE (Northwestern European, if the SE limit of NW Europe is taken as Switzerland); (3) Finally, on a wheel with 16 segments representing my 16 greatgreatgrandparents, I distributed my ancestors as another way of visualizing quantity (and found $1 / 16$ th Dutch-speaking, $5 / 16$ ths English-speaking (with the possibility of $1 / 8$ th Gaelic-speaking, within the $5 / 16$ ths English-speaking), and $10 /$ 16ths [5/8ths!] German-speaking; or to read the wheel another way, my MOTHER's side looks like this: all 8*1ived in Germany, and those 4 of their chn. who were my greatgrandparents were immigrants to USA; and my FATHER's side looks like this: 2 from German-speaking Switzerland, 1 from Holland, 3 from England (l of these with roots in Scotland and then in France, coming over to Britain in 1066 with Wm. the Conqueror), and 2 from Ireland....*2, I think, in Alsace-Lorraine....All except the AD1066 character, in the greatgreatgrandparental generation.... Now lets see the roots picture:


Where a country appears with a number, that person emigrated from that country to ours. ...Note that my maternal ancesters all immigrated in Generation $D$, and all but one of my paternal ancesters in Generation E (but the starred numbers may be earlier, and the ones with "?" are only probable)....How few (how rich!) our roots, how brief our life! Italics are the main family-names.


