

National History Day® General Topics List

Welcome to National History Day in Iowa! This list is designed to introduce you to the endless possibilities for research topics as you begin the NHD process. This list spans United States and world history and is ever-growing—so be sure to check back year to year! If you have a topic suggestion, please contact NHD in Iowa at NHD.Iowa@iowa.gov.

Good luck, and happy History Day!

United States History (By Time Period)

Colonial Dissent and American Revolution

- Stamp Act (1765)
- Sons of Liberty (1765-1776)
- Boston Massacre (1770)
- Boston Tea Party (1773)
- Intolerable Acts (1774)
- First Continental Congress (1774)
- Sybil Ludington (1775)
- Paul Revere (1775)
- Battles of Lexington and Concord (1775)
- Battle of Bunker Hill (1775)
- Second Continental Congress (1775)
- Dunmore's Proclamation (1775)
- *Common Sense* (1776)
- Declaration of Independence (1776)
- Valley Forge Encampment (1777-1778)
- Culper Ring (1778-1783)
- Battle of Yorktown (1781)
- Treaty of Paris (1783)

Civil War and Reconstruction

- South Carolina's Secession (1860)
- Battle of Fort Sumter (1861)
- Emancipation Proclamation (1863)
- Battle of Gettysburg (1863)
- Gettysburg Address (1863)
- Combahee Ferry Raid (1863)
- Sherman's March to the Sea (1864)
- Assassination of President Lincoln (1865)
- Freedmen's Bureau (1865)
- 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments (1865-1870)
- Reconstruction Acts (1867)
- Impeachment of Andrew Johnson (1868)
- Enforcement Acts (1870-1871)

World War I

- Zimmerman Telegram (1917)
- Sinking of the Lusitania (1917)
- American Protective League (1917-1919)
- American Expeditionary Forces (1917-1920)

- United States Food Administration (1917-1920)
- Hello Girls (1917-1920)
- President Wilson's 14 Points (1918)
- Harlem Hellfighters (1918-1919)
- Treaty of Versailles (1919)

The Great Depression

- Wall Street Crash (1929)
- Dust Bowl (1931-1941)
- Bonus Army (1932)
- New Deal (1933-1939)
- President Roosevelt's Fireside Chats (1933-1944)
- Recession (1937-1939)

World War II

- Tuskegee Airmen (1940-1948)
- Lend-Lease Act (1941)
- Pearl Harbor (1941)
- Manhattan Project (1941-1945)
- Rosie the Riveter (1942)
- Japanese Internment (1942-1946)
- Operation Overlord and Battle of Normandy (1944)
- Battle of the Bulge (1944-1945)
- Battle of Okinawa (1945)
- Atomic Attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki (1945)
- Liberation of Buchenwald Concentration Camp (1945)
- Yalta Conference (1945)

The Cold War

- House Un-American Activities Committee (1945-1975)
- Truman Doctrine (1947)
- Marshall Plan (1948)
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (1949)
- NSC 68 (1950)
- Korean War (1950-1953)
- Second Red Scare (1950-1954)
- Rosenberg Trial (1951)
- Vietnam War (1954-1975)
- U2 Spy Plane Incident (1960)
- NASA Apollo Program (1961-1975)
- Bay of Pigs (1961)
- Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)
- Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (1969-1979)
- President Nixon's Visit to China (1972)
- Iran Hostage Crisis (1979-1981)
- President Reagan's "Evil Empire" Speech (1982)

United States History (By Subject)

African American History

- John Punch Case (1640)
- Sojourner Truth (1797-1883)
- Frederick Douglass (1817-1895)
- Harriet Tubman (1822-1913)
- Nat Turner's Rebellion (1831)
- *United States v. The Amistad* (1841)
- Fugitive Slave Act (1850)
- Ida B. Wells (1862-1931)
- *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896)
- Origins of Blues (1860s-1910s)
- Septima P. Clark (1898-1987)
- Origins of Jazz (1900-1920s)
- Ella Baker (1903-1986)
- Niagara Falls Conference (1905)
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (1909)
- Harlem Renaissance (1910s-1930s)
- Rosa Parks (1913-2005)
- Robert F. Williams (1925-1996)
- Malcolm X (1925-1965)
- Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968)
- Claudette Colvin (1939-Present)
- *Brown v. Board of Education* (1952)
- Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955-1956)
- Little Rock Nine (1957)
- Black Power Movement (1960s-1980s)
- Freedom Riders (1961)
- Civil Rights Act (1964)
- Black Panther Party (1966-1981)

Native American History

- Beaver Wars (1609-1701)
- King Philip's War (1675-1678)
- French and Indian War (1754)
- Sacagawea (1788-1812)
- Tecumseh's War (1810-1813)
- Seminole Wars (1817-1858)

- Indian Removal Act (1830)
- Sitting Bull (1831-1890)
- *Worcester v. Georgia* (1832)
- Black Hawk War (1832)
- Trail of Tears (1838)
- Charles Curtis (1860-1936)
- Battle of the Little Bighorn/Battle of Greasy Grass (1876)
- Dawes Act (1887)
- Ghost Dance (1890)
- Wounded Knee Massacre (1890)
- American Indian Boarding Schools and Assimilationist Education (1890s-1960s)
- Osage Murders (1918-1931)
- Maria Tallchief (1925-2013)
- Code Talkers (1940s)
- American Indian Movement (1960s-2000s)
- Indian Civil Rights Act (1968)
- American Indian Suffrage (1971)

Latinx History

- Battle of the Alamo (1836)
- Mexican-American War (1846-1848)
- Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848)
- San Elizario Salt War (1877-1878)
- Las Gorras Blancas (1880s-1890s)
- Bisbee Strike and Deportation (1917)
- Bracero Programs (1940s-1960s)
- Chicano Movement (1940s-1970s)
- Zoot Suit Riots (1943)
- *Mendez v. Westminster* (1947)
- *Hernandez v. Texas* (1954)
- United Farm Workers of America (1960s)
- Brown Berets (1967-1972)
- Hijas de Cuauhtémoc (1971)

Women's History

- Anne Hutchinson (1591-1643)
- Salem Witch Trials (1692-1693)
- Abigail Adams (1744-1818)
- Phillis Wheatley (1753-1784)
- Dorothea Dix (1802-1887)
- Maria W. Stewart (1803-1879)
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902)
- Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906)
- Elizabeth Blackwell (1821-1910)
- Clara Barton (1821-1912)
- Mount Holyoke Female Seminary (1837)
- Seneca Falls Convention (1848)
- Nellie Bly (1864-1922)
- Women's Christian Temperance Union (1874)
- Margaret Sanger (1879-1966)
- Frances Perkins (1880-1965)
- Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962)
- Alice Paul (1885-1977)
- General Federation of Women's Clubs (1890)
- Marian Anderson (1897-1993)
- Clara Bow (1905-1965)
- National Association of Colored Women (1906)
- 19th Amendment (1920)
- Betty Friedan (1921-2006)
- Phyllis Schlafly (1924-2016)
- National Council of Negro Women (1935)
- Anita Hill (1965-Present)
- National Women's Political Caucus (1971)

- Equal Rights Amendment (1971-1979)
- *Ms. Magazine* (1971-Present)
- Title IX (1972)
- *Roe v. Wade* (1973)

STEM History

- Robert Fulton (1765-1815)
- Eli Whitney (1765-1825)
- Samuel Morse (1791-1872)
- John Deere (1804-1886)
- Cyrus McCormick (1809-1884)
- Thomas Edison (1847-1931)
- Wright Brothers (1867-1948)
- Rachel Carson (1907-1964)
- Virginia Apgar (1909-1974)
- Radium Girls (1910s-1920s)
- Katherine G. Johnson (1918-2020)
- Calutron Girls (1943-1945)
- ENIAC Programmers (1945)
- Sally Ride (1951-2012)
- Mercury 13 (1959-1962)

Sports History

- Jim Thorpe (1887-1953)
- Jesse Owens (1913-1980)
- Jackie Robinson (1919-1972)
- Negro League Baseball (1920s-1960s)
- Joe Louis vs. Max Schmeling (1936)
- Muhammad Ali (1942-2016)
- All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (1943-1954)
- Billie Jean King (1943-Present)
- NFL Color Line (1946)
- Miracle on Ice (1980)

World History (By Region)

Europe

- Black Death (1346-1353)
- Italian Renaissance (15th-16th c.)
- Martin Luther (1483-1546)
- Queen Elizabeth I (1533-1603)
- English Civil War (1642-1651)
- First Industrial Revolution (1760-1840)
- French Revolution (1789-1799)
- Napoleonic Wars (1803-1815)
- Revolutions Across Europe (1848)
- Crimean War (1853-1856)
- Unification of Italy (1860)
- Franco-Prussian War (1870-1871)
- Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand (1914)
- Russian Revolution (1917)
- Holodomor (1932-1933)
- Holocaust (1933-1945)
- Spanish Civil War (1936-1939)
- Sputnik 1 Launch (1957)
- Bloody Sunday (1972)
- Gorbachev's Reforms (1980s)
- Yugoslav Civil Wars (1991-1995)
- Creation of European Union (1992)

Middle East

- Cyrus the Great (600-530 BCE)
- House of Wisdom (8th-13th c.)
- Fall of Constantinople (1453)
- Suleiman the Magnificent (1494-1566)
- Armenian Genocide (1915-1917)
- Arab Revolt (1916)
- Formation of Arab League (1945)
- Formation of State of Israel (1948)
- Arab-Israeli War (1948)
- Suez Crisis (1956)
- Six-Day War (1967)
- Camp David Accords (1978)
- Iranian Revolution (1978-1979)

Asia

- Ashoka the Great (304-232 BCE)
- Papermaking (25-220)
- Yellow Turban Rebellion (184-205)
- Japanese Smallpox Epidemic (735-737)
- Jayavarman II (770-850)
- Murasaki Shikibu (970s-1010s)
- Mongol Empire (13th-14th c.)
- Zheng He (1371-1433)
- Sejong the Great (1397-1450)
- Rama I (1737-1809)
- Opium Wars (1839-1860)
- Indian Rebellion (1857)
- Meiji Restoration (1868)
- Boxer Rebellion (1899-1901)
- Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905)
- Chinese Revolution (1911)
- Fall of the Ottoman Empire (1920)
- Salt March (1930)
- Japanese Invasion of Manchuria (1931-1932)
- Partition of India (1947)
- Tibetan Uprising (1959)
- Tiananmen Square Protests and Massacre (1989)

Africa

- Sundiata Keita (1217-1255)
- Osei Kofi Tutu I (1660-1717)
- Anglo-Zulu War (1879)
- Congo Free State (1885-1908)
- Pan-African Congress (1900-Present)
- Kwame Nkrumah (1909-1972)
- Nelson Mandela (1918-2013)
- South African Apartheid (1948-1991)
- Decolonization (1950s-1970s)
- Assassination of Patrice Lumumba (1961)

- Angola War of Independence (1961-1975)

Central and South America

- Flower Wars (1454-1519)
- Treaty of Tordesillas (1494)
- Encomienda System (16th-18th c.)
- Fall of Tenochtitlan (1521)
- Inca Civil War (1529-1532)
- Execution of Atahualpa (1533)
- Quilombo dos Palmares (1605-1694)
- Simon Bolivar (1783-1830)
- Banana Wars (1898-1934)
- Thousand Days' War (1899-1902)
- Banana Massacre (1928)
- Cuban Revolution (1959)
- Rigoberta Menchu (1959-Present)
- Nicaraguan Revolution (1961-1990)
- Salvador Allende and Chilean Coup d'Etat (1973)

Oceania

- James Cook's Voyages (1768-1779)
- Hawkesbury and Nepean Wars (1794-1816)
- Castle Hill Convict Rebellion (1804)
- Treaty of Waitangi (1840)
- New Zealand Wars (1845-1872)
- Samoan Civil War (1886-1894)
- Australian Shearers' Strike (1891)
- Annexation of Hawai'i (1898)
- Stolen Generations (1910s-1970s)
- Gallipoli Campaign and ANZAC Day (1915-1916)
- Emu War (1932)
- Dawn Raids (1973-1979)