

# Think Like Norman Borlaug

- How do you think Norman Borlaug's work with wheat varieties helped combat starvation in countries?
- Borlaug worked with younger scientists during his time in Mexico. Why do you think it was important for him to train younger scientists in different countries?
- Why do you think Borlaug's work received a Nobel Peace Prize?



## **Norman Borlaug (1881-1971)**

Norman Borlaug was born on March 25, 1914 near Cresco, Iowa and he would win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his work in agriculture. He studied plant pathology at the University of Minnesota where he received his Bachelor of Science, master's degree and doctorate in 1942. Following college, he participated in the Rockefeller Foundation's program where he researched wheat improvement in Mexico, and helped train other scientists. Borlaug then developed wheat varieties that could be disease resistant and have high yield potential. His findings helped spark the "Green Revolution," and assisted with fighting hunger around the world. For his contributions to the world food supply, Borlaug was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970. He created the World Food Prize in 1986 to recognize the important achievements of others.

# Think Like Ruth Buxton Sayre

- Why do you think Ruth Buxton Sayre founded the Associated Country Women of the World? In what ways would this organization help women farmers in the early 1990s?
- Why would it be important to have someone like Sayre serve on national organizations focusing on agriculture?
- Why would it be important to help connect rural women in national affairs?



## **Ruth Buxton Sayre (1876-1962)**

Ruth Buxton Sayre was born in Indianola, Iowa, in 1896 and was known as the "First Lady of the Farm." During her public work, she focused on improving life for farm women. Sayre became the state chairman of the American Farm Bureau Federation in 1930, and helped found the Associated Country Women of the World organization. Appointed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to the National Agricultural Advisory Commission, she was the only woman and provided a voice for Iowa farmers. She also served on the advisory committee to the United States Secretary of Labor, served on the National Safety Council and the National Civilian Defense Committee, and she held two positions in the United Nations.

# Think Like a Geographer

A person who studies the environment and how it impacts people.

- Describe details about this location. What do you notice that can help figure out where this place is located? What is unique?
- Why would people move to or leave this place?
- How would people travel to this location? How has traveling to this location changed over time?
- Describe details about people who live here and how they impact the location? How does the location impact the people who live there?



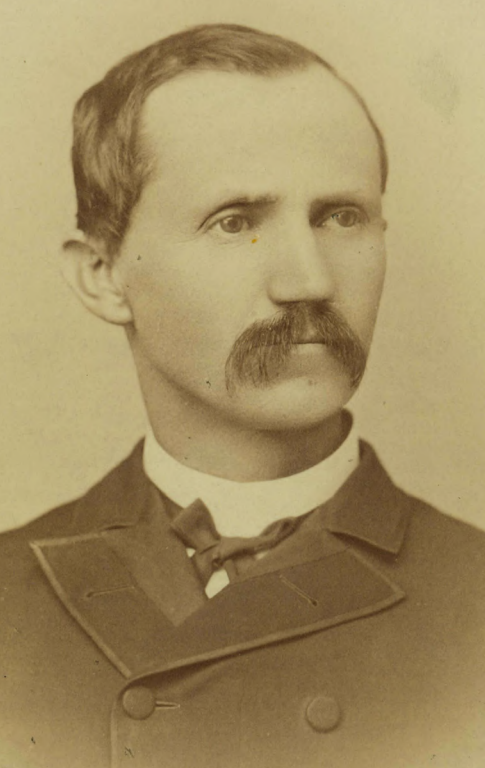
## **Ira Cook (1821-1902)**

Much like how a geographer studies the land, a land surveyor is someone who measures land areas in order to determine boundaries for settlers to purchase. Ira Cook was one of many lowans to receive a contract from the government to be a land surveyor when Iowa territory had to be measured. Cook endured tough conditions, long journeys by foot and wagon and harsh weather from 1849-1853 as he crossed the state measuring the land. He was elected mayor of Des Moines, Iowa, in 1861 and later moved to Washington, D.C., to become Deputy United States Revenue Collector in 1864.

# Think Like an Economist

A person who studies the ways people make a living.

- Describe the people in relation to the location. What jobs or occupations do you think people had? Why do you say that? How do you think they met their needs and wants?
- How do decisions made by individuals affect themselves and the economy?
- How do decisions made by businesses affect people?
- How do jobs impact people and the economy? Describe what happens when jobs are lost.



## **Voltaire Twombly (1842-1918)**

Voltaire P. Twombly was elected Treasurer of Iowa in January 1885. The treasurer officially oversees the state's revenue and finances. He served three terms in the position before stepping down in 1891. Not only was Twombly financially savvy, he also was a war hero. During the Battle of Fort Donelson during the Civil War, he picked up and carried his regiment's national colors after three other members of his regiment were killed or incapacitated by Confederate fire while attempting to secure the flag. Twombly received a Medal of Honor in 1897 for his heroic deeds during the battle.



# Think Like a Historian

A person who explains changes that happened in the past.

- What happened in the past? Why is it important to understand what has happened in the past?
- How did past decisions or actions significantly transform people's lives?
- What has changed or stayed the same over time? Who benefited from the change? Why? Who did not benefit? Why?
- Who or what made changes happen? Who supported the change? Who didn't? Why?



## **Louise Noun (1908-2002)**

Louise Frankel Rosenfield Noun spent her life preserving and sharing Iowa history. She was born in Des Moines to Meyer Rosenfield, owner of the Younker's department store, and Rose Frankel Rosenfield, a suffrage-supporting mother. Noun and Mary Louise Smith, the former chair of the Republican National Committee, worked together to found the Iowa Women's Archives at the University of Iowa Main Library. The archives include important manuscripts and papers which record women's history in Iowa. Louise Noun also authored numerous books and papers regarding feminist history in Iowa.

# Think Like a Political Scientist

A person who studies governments and how they work.

- What problems might people have faced in this society?
- What rights do people have? What rights are people missing?
- What might lead to people being treated fairly? What might lead to people being treated unfairly?
- What information can be gathered about trends at this location or time period that might change or impact the future?



## **George Gallup (1901-1984)**

A native of Jefferson, Iowa, and graduate of the University of Iowa, George Gallup invented the now famous Gallup Poll. The Gallup Poll is a method of survey sampling (asking different people the same question for their answers) to help figure out public opinion. Polls are important for elections and helpful for political scientists. The first instance of using the Gallup Poll for politics was the 1932 campaign of Gallup's mother-in-law, Ola Babcock Miller, who successfully ran for Iowa Secretary of State.

# Think Like a Journalist

A person who tells others about the story.

- What are the major headlines of this historical topic?
- What people would you want to interview? What questions would you ask?
- What details are needed to tell this particular story to people not from this area?
- Why is it important to share news about what is happening at this time period or this location?



## **George Mills (1906-2003)**

There was not a story developing within the Iowa Capitol's hallways or chambers that George Mills did not cover for *The Des Moines Register* newspaper. Mills covered events and political news at the capitol building from 1943-1971 and later served as a reporter for television station WHO-TV. From 1943 to 1954, Mills was also the Iowa correspondent for *Time*, *Life* and *Fortune* magazines, writing Iowa stories for a national audience.