

Think Like George Edwin Taylor

- In 1859, Arkansas enacted a Free Negro Expulsion Bill, which required all free people of color to leave the state by January 1, 1860, or face sale into slavery for a period of one year. Discuss how this forced migration would have impacted George Edwin Taylor, his mother and the hundreds of other free African Americans.
- Taylor held many positions and he was involved in politics. Discuss how his different jobs influenced his decision to get into politics.
- Taylor was the first African-American man to run for president. What reasons do you think prompted Taylor to run for president in 1904?



George Edwin Taylor (1857-1925)

George Edwin Taylor was born free in Little Rock, Arkansas. His mother Amanda Hines was a freedperson, his father was Nathan Taylor, an enslaved man. Taylor and his mother fled Arkansas into Illinois, a free state. His mother died, and when he was eight, he boarded a ship to Wisconsin, where he lived with a foster family. He became involved with county, city and state politics. Taylor shows up on Iowa census records in 1891. While living in Iowa, he owned and operated a newspaper, the *Negro Solicitor*. He also served two terms as a local Justice of the Peace and was the head of the Negro Bureau in the national Democratic Party. Taylor was the candidate of the National Negro Liberty Party for the office of president of the U.S. in 1904.

Think Like Vivian Smith

- When Vivian Smith could not be a teacher she focused her energy into working for voting rights for women of color. How would the skills she learned from college translate into her work at the Waterloo Suffragette Council?
- Discuss the issue of the Waterloo School District not hiring Black teachers until 1952. Was that decision fair or unfair? What makes you say that?
- It was important to Smith's parents that her and her siblings attended school. Why do you think receiving an education was important to the Smith family?



Vivian Smith (c. 1894-unknown)

Vivian Smith was born to free people Clemmie and Samuel Smith in Kentucky. The family moved to Clinton, Iowa, where her parents were hotel cooks. They later moved to Waterloo after the Illinois Central Railroad strike. Smith graduated from Iowa State Teachers College, now University of Northern Iowa, in Cedar Falls. She and her cousin were the first African-American women to graduate from there. After graduation, Smith could not get a job as a teacher due to her race. The Waterloo School District did not hire Black teachers until 1952. She went on to create the Waterloo Suffragette Council, which advocated for women's rights regardless of race. She did become a teacher and taught in Kamrar and Blairsburg, Iowa, and in Illinois.

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?



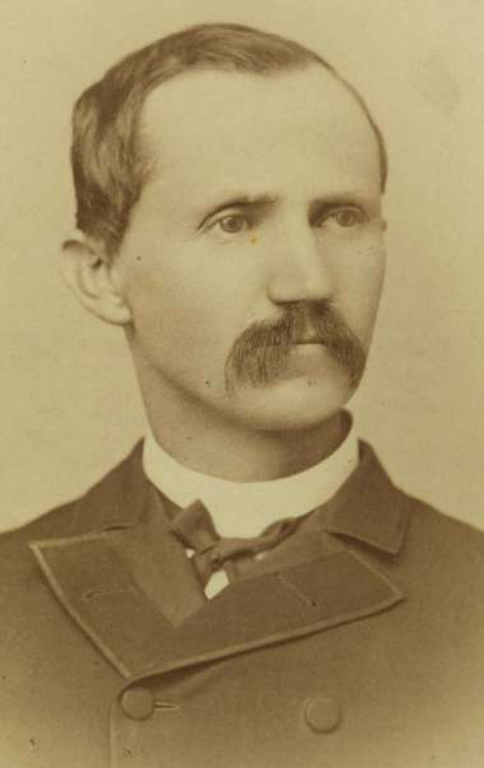
Ira Cook (1821-1902)

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.