

Think Like John L. Lewis

- John L. Lewis fought for better working conditions and higher pay for workers. Why do you think this was important?
- Lewis began his career working in a coal mine. Coal mines are underground with no sunlight and often poor air circulation. How do you think it felt working inside a mine?
- How do you think Lewis' experience working in a coal mine helped him advocate for other mine workers?



John L. Lewis (1880-1969)

John Llewellyn Lewis was born in Lucas, Iowa, on Feb. 12, 1880. The first of seven children, Lewis completed nearly 10 years of formal education before joining his father in the mines at the age of 16. From 1920 to 1960, Lewis served as president of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), the largest and one of the most influential unions in the country, and also was the founding president of the Congress of Industrial Organization. Lewis became a popular public figure in the 1930s due to his leadership positions. He was a strong advocate for industrial unions in the labor movement, and fought for higher wages, safer working conditions and expanded benefits. Lewis died in 1969 at his home in Alexandria, Virginia.

Think Like Emily Hawley Gillespie

- Emily Hawley Gillespie and her husband owned a farm a long time ago, and she had many farm and household jobs. How would jobs, like the daily chores, impact the running of a farm?
- We know about Gillespie's jobs because she wrote in a [journal](#) every day. Why do you think keeping a journal is important?
- How do you think the work of a farm family, like the Gillespies, is different from family life today? What is the same as today?



Emily Hawley Gillespie (1839-1888)

Emily Hawley was born in Michigan on April 11, 1839. She worked as a seamstress and teacher until her marriage to James Gillespie in 1862. Gillespie and her husband later farmed outside Manchester, Iowa. Gillespie kept a daily diary for 30 years beginning in 1858 until her death in 1888. She wrote about farm life, such as what produce she harvested and preserved from her garden, how her husband tended the fields and what livestock he raised. She also recorded financial records, private thoughts and her family's activities. The 2,500 handwritten pages of her diary were given to the State Historical Society of Iowa in 1952 to help preserve the voice and thoughts of an early female Iowa farmer.

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?



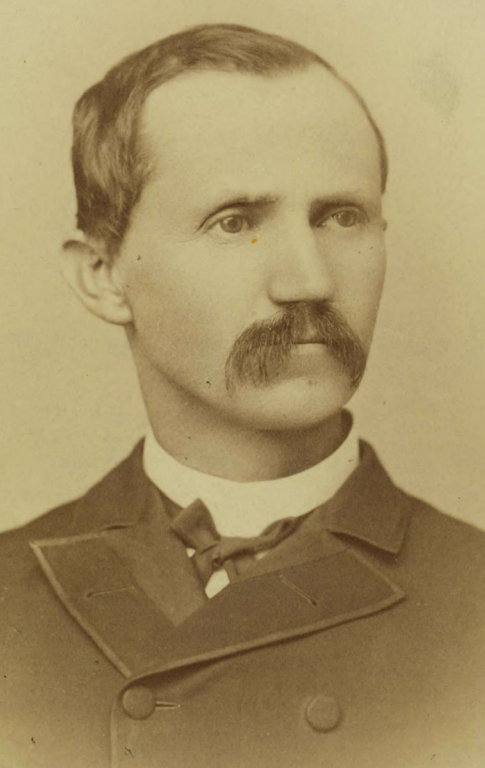
Ira Cook (1821-1902)

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.