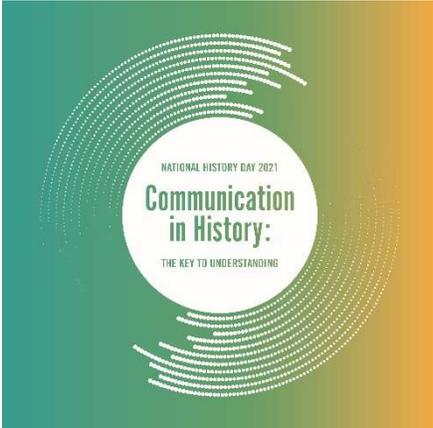


CHOOSING A HISTORY DAY TOPIC

KEYS TO FINDING A GOOD TOPIC



It’s history—It happened at least 15 years ago.

It’s significant—It fits the 2021 National History Day theme, *Communication in History: The Key to Understanding*. Learn more about the annual theme at nhd.org.

It’s got sources—It has plenty of primary and secondary sources available.

It demands interpretation—It was important when it happened and remains relevant.

It’s got soul—You care about it!

Getting Started: One way to choose a topic is to start with a general subject area you find interesting. What historical figure, event, or geographic region are you interested in? What are your favorite hobbies, sports, music, dance, books, art? This also could be a topic you read about in a textbook or something related to local or family history. Think about historic eras you’re interested in:

Ottoman Empire
The Renaissance
The Enlightenment
Industrial Revolution
American Civil War and Reconstruction Era
Gilded Age
Progressive Era

World War I
Great Depression
World War II
Korean War
Vietnam War
Cold War
Fur Trade

Topic Brainstorm: Using the space below, brainstorm one topic in each category that fits this year’s theme, *Communication in History: The Key to Understanding*.

Politics

Topic Idea:

Environment

Topic Idea:

Civil Rights

Topic Idea:

Social Issues

Topic Idea:

Military History

Topic Idea:

Health and Medicine

Topic Idea:

Science & Technology

Topic Idea:

Education

Topic Idea:

Business

Topic Idea:

Arts, Music, Culture

Topic Idea:

NORTH DAKOTA TOPIC IDEAS

Native Americans

Treaties
Dakota/Lakota
Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara
Menoken Indian Village
Double Ditch Indian Village
Knife River Indian Villages
Chippewa, Métis
Louis Riel and the Red River Rebellion
Sitting Bull
Dawes Allotment Act of 1887 and Assimilation
Reservations
Boarding Schools
Indian Citizen Act of 1924
Indian Reorganization Act, 1934
American Indian Movement
Whitestone Hill

Westward Expansion

Louisiana Purchase
Thomas Jefferson
Lewis and Clark
Fort Mandan
Fur Trade
Gingras Trading Post
Fort Clark
George Catlin (artist)
Fort Union
Fort Laramie Treaty of 1898

Military Expeditions on the Northern Plains

Civil War Battles in North Dakota (5 historic sites)
Sibley, Sully, and the Dakota War
Killdeer Mountain Battlefield
Fort Abraham Lincoln
George Custer
Battle of the Little Bighorn
Fort Abercrombie
Fort Buford
Fort Totten

Immigration and Settlement

Alexander Henry Jr.
Pembina
Homestead Act
Germans from Russia and other ethnic groups
African Americans (Era Bell Thompson, Ishram Evans, William T. Montgomery, baseball)
Jewish settlers (Rachel Calof and others)
Muslims (mosque in Ross, N.D., 1929)
Agriculture: Farming and Ranching
Welk Homestead
Chateau de Morès
State Mill and Elevator

Transportation

Red River Carts
Steamboats
Railroads
James J. Hill
Great Northern Railway
Northern Pacific Railroad
Automobiles and Modern Highways
Airplanes

Politics

Nonpartisan League (NPL)
Bank of North Dakota
Women's Suffrage Movement
Linda Slaughter
Former Governors' Mansion
Historic 1883 Stutsman County Courthouse

The Modern Era

Spanish American War
Philippine American War
Spanish Flu of 1918
Prohibition
Great Depression and the Dirty Thirties
New Deal, Works Progress Administration (WPA)
Homefront during periods of war
Internment of Japanese and German Americans and POWs in North Dakota (Fort Lincoln)
Herman Stern
Rural electrification
Television and radio in North Dakota
Pick-Sloan Project, Garrison Diversion
Cold War, Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM)
Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile Site
Discovery of oil and natural gas reserves
Governor Art Link and Reclamation Laws
National Guard in North Dakota
Zip to Zap
Judge Ronald Davies
Posse Comitatus and Gordon Kahl

Other Ideas

North Dakota Inventors
Corporations, manufacturing
Sports figures and teams
Authors, actors, musicians
Rough Rider Award recipients
Search the North Dakota Studies online curriculum at ndstudies.gov.