**National History Day #1**

**Topic Selection**

**Theme and Topics Criteria:**

This year’s theme is ***Breaking Barriers***. You will need to pick a topic that is related to *Breaking Barriers*. In addition, your topic or event needs to be part of Eastern Hemisphere since that is what we are studying in 7th Grade.

**Helpful Link:**

-NHD official website: <https://www.nhd.org/>

-Colorado’s official NHD website: <https://clas.ucdenver.edu/nhdc/>

**What makes a good topic?:**

* Your topic must be SPECIFIC!
* Try to pick a unique topic
* You can choose specific events or people from an era or war, but you cannot choose to research a war or era in its entirety
	+ For example:
		- You can pick Harriet Tubman as your NHD topic, but you cannot pick the Underground Railroad
		- You can pick Otto Mears The Pathfinder of the San Juans as your NHD topic, but you cannot pick Historic Railroads of the West
		- You can pick Abigail Adams as your NHD topic, but you cannot pick the American Revolution
		- You can pick Jamestown as your NHD topic, but you cannot pick the American Colonization
		- You can pick the Santa Fe Trail as your NHD topic, but you cannot pick Westward Expansion
		- You can pick the Emancipation Proclamation as your NHD topic, but you cannot pick the Civil War

**Things to consider when picking a topic:**

* Interest:
	+ You need to make sure you pick a topic that you would like to research for several months
* Primary sources
	+ Your topic must have at least 10 primary sources
	+ If the topic that you choose does not have at least 10 primary sources available, you must pick another topic
* Prizes:
	+ Several organizations provide special prizes for specific categories
	+ Go to the following link and scroll down to special awards to find the categories: <https://clas.ucdenver.edu/nhdc/cultural-partners-special-awards>

**Topic Ideas:**

**(You can chose a topic that is not listed below, but it must relate to Breaking Barriers and be part of U.S. History from 1580-1875)**

American Colonization:

* Jamestown
* Pocahontas
* John Smith
* Henry Hudson
* Samuel de Champlain
* Mayflower Compact
* Anne Hutchinson
* Quakers
* Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade
* Olaudah Equiano

French and Indian War:

* Chief Pontiac
* Albany Plan of Union

American Revolution:

* Martha Washington
* Abigail Adams
* John Hancock
* Benjamin Franklin
* John Locke
* Baron de Montesquieu
* Thomas Paine
* Sons of Liberty
* Daughters of Liberty
* Committees of Correspondence
* Non-importation Agreement
* Boston Tea Party
* The Continental Congress
* Battle of Lexington and Concord
* Ethan Allen
* Thomas Jefferson
* George Washington
* The Declaration of Independence
* The Battle of Saratoga
* Marquis de Lafayette
* John Paul Jones
* Battle of Yorktown
* Treaty of Paris 1783
* Northwest Ordinance
* Alexander Hamilton

Making of the Constitution:

* James Madison
* The Constitution
* The Great Compromise
* The Bill of Rights-Amendments 1-15
* Chief Little Turtle
* Treaty of Greenville
* John Adams
* John Marshall
* Marbury v. Madison

Jeffersonian Era:

* Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery
* Sacagawea
* Zebulon Pike
* Louisiana Purchase
* Tecumseh

Industrial Revolution:

* Lowell Mills
* Robert Fulton
* Mechanical Reaper
* Cotton Gin
* James Monroe
* Missouri Compromise
* Erie Canal
* Monroe Doctrine
* Nicola Tesla

Jacksonian Era:

* Nat Turner Slave Revolt
* Andrew Jackson
* Trail of Tears
* Sequoya
* Indian Removal Act
* Worcester v. Georgia

Westward Expansion:

* Oregon Trail
* Santa Fe Trail
* L.L. Nunn
* Otto Mears
* Molly Kathleen Mine
* The Long Walk
* Brigham Young
* Mountain Men
* Stephen F. Austin
* Sam Houston
* Juan Sequin
* Lone Star Republic
* Battle of San Jacinto
* James K. Polk
* Bear Flag Republic
* Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
* Mariano Vallejo
* James Marshall
* Sutter’s Mill
* Specific Gold Rush towns
* John Wesley Powell

Age of Reform:

* Horace Mann
* Dorothea Dix
* Frederick Douglass
* Sojourner Truth
* Harriet Tubman
* Elizabeth Cady Stanton
* Seneca Falls Convention

Causes of the Civil War:

* Kansas-Nebraska Act
* Compromise of 1850
* John Brown
* Harpers Ferry
* Dred Scott v. Sanford

The Civil War:

* Abraham Lincoln
* Jefferson Davis
* Battle of Fort Sumter
* Robert E. Lee
* The Anaconda Plan
* Ulysses S. Grant
* Battle of Antietam
* Battle of Gettysburg
* Emancipation Proclamation
* 54th Massachusetts
* Clara Barton
* Sherman’s March to the Sea