

Getting Ready for National History Day 2012 Using Resources from the National Archives at New York City

Each year throughout the NY and NJ area, thousands of 6th–12th-grade students and their teachers participate in the National History Day competition. After selecting a topic of their choice related to the annual theme, students become historians as they perform research at libraries, archives, museums and historic sites. Students use their discoveries to create exhibits, essays, documentaries, web sites or performances.

Students and teachers are encouraged to take advantage of the rich array of area resources in their communities in connection with this year's theme: Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History.

The National Archives at New York City is pleased to provide National History Day student field trips for classes and history clubs, workshops for teachers, and research assistance for individual National History Day competitors.

In our National History Day programs, students and teachers will

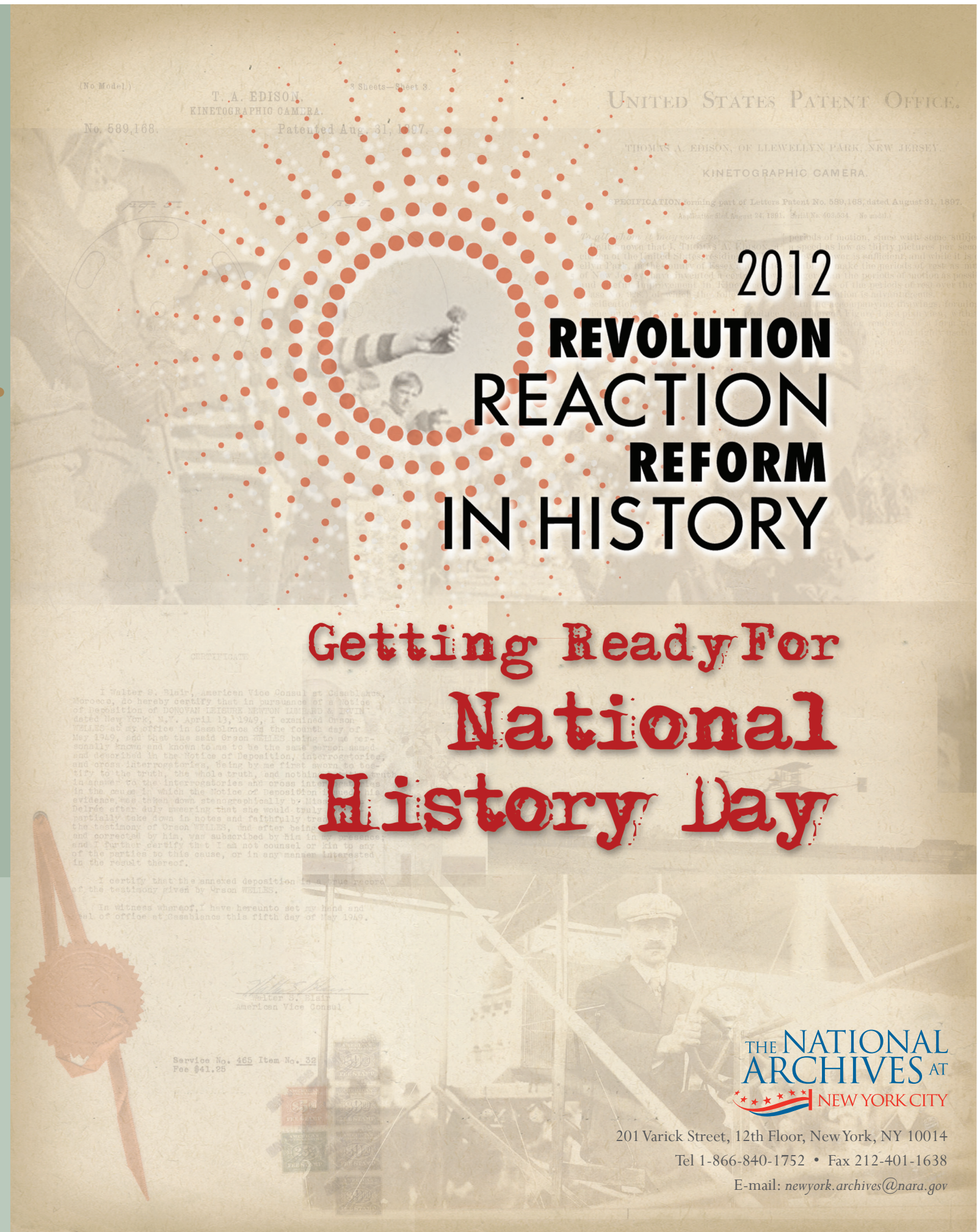
- Discover how to locate and utilize primary sources from the National Archives.
- Analyze primary source documents to increase critical thinking and research skills.
- Understand the research process and the importance of citing records properly.
- Review the significance to determine the relevance of primary sources to the research topic.
- Research original records at our New York City facility.

We offer **FREE** workshops and student field trips. Call us toll-free at 1-866-840-1752 or e-mail newyork.archives@nara.gov for more information. *Please Note: Students are always welcome to come in and research, but if they are under the age of 14 they must be accompanied by a teacher, parent, or guardian.*

The National Archives at New York City maintains Federal records from New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

We preserve more than 100,000 cubic feet of historical records from the 1680s to the 1990s on a variety of topics. Our records are an essential component to successful National History Day entries.

For more information about National History Day, www.nhd.org
OR CONTACT: The New Jersey state coordinator at nj.nhd.org
The New York state coordinator at ny.nhd.org



Sample Topics & Related Records from the National Archives at New York City

REVOLUTION

Transportation Revolution: Man has always been tempted with taming the skies to improve transportation. It wasn't until the early 20th century that two Ohio brothers were able to accomplish this feat. Follow their revolutionary feat through the photos, court documents, and signed depositions of our records.

Civil War Draft Riots: During four days in the summer of 1863, New York City exploded with fervor in reaction to the first draft in U.S. history. Buildings were burned to the ground, innocent people were attacked, and chaos reigned throughout the city. Through the Records of the Provost Marshal, this revolt comes to life through firsthand accounts.

Communication Revolution: Since its inception, the telephone has tied people together in previously unimaginable ways. From rotary dials to smart phones, the telephone has allowed millions of people "to reach out and touch someone." Follow the beginning of this creation through the records of several early patent infringement cases involving Alexander Graham Bell.

Cinematic Revolutions: Whether it's the creation of a new technology or the use of new techniques, our documents help explain the birth and transformation of cinema. Discover the pioneering work of Thomas Edison and his kinetoscope at the beginning of the film industry through patent infringement cases. The groundbreaking films *Modern Times* and *Citizen Kane* of motion picture icons Charlie Chaplin and Orson Welles can be explored through our copyright infringement cases.

Little Red Schoolhouse: Student activism and political involvement supported revolutionary ideas throughout the 20th century, but these actions were not always supported by those in positions of power. The International Workers Order (IWO), a Communist-affiliated organization, was added to the Attorney General's list of subversive organizations in 1947. Our records include literature related to the IWO and affiliated groups.

REACTION

Social Revolutions and Reactions: Standards of freedom have been pushed by a variety of people for different reasons. From book publishers trying to print *Ulysses*, to a reformer trying to explain birth control, to a comic that enjoyed certain four-letter words, it was through the courts that Random House, Margaret Sanger, and Lenny Bruce were able to push the envelope towards greater freedom of expression.

Reactions to Immigration: Though America is rightly called a nation of immigrants, throughout our history many have responded to increased immigration with anger, fear, and distrust. From these "nativist" feelings, legislation was created to limit or exclude immigrants from entry to the United States. The evolving opinions on this subject can be traced through our passenger arrival records, Chinese Exclusion Case Files, and Habeas Corpus cases of immigrants denied entry into our country.

Reactions During Wartime: During times of war, whether hot or cold, people on the edges of society experience strong reactions from the government and the people. From the ACLU being unable to distribute pamphlets against the draft in World War I to singer Pete Seeger being prosecuted for communist beliefs during the 1950s, the responses to these threats can be uncovered in our records.

Red Scare Reactions: During the Cold War, fear of communist revolutionaries within the United States was constant. From McCarthy hearings to HUAC, the reaction against those with communist beliefs was severe. Uncover the court records of people violating the Smith Act, including Eugene Dennis and editors of the *Daily Worker*.

REFORM

Changing the World of Sports: Curtis C. Flood had a career .293 batting average, won the Golden Glove seven times, and was a part of two World Series teams. More than just those statistics, however, make Curt Flood one of the most important baseball players of the last 50 years. After refusing to be traded, Flood sued Major League Baseball for unfair labor practices. Our records include the *Flood v. Kuhn* case, which led to the free agency system.

Reforming Government: In the depths of a severe economic downturn, New Deal reformers created a series of programs designed to ensure relief, recovery, and reform of a broken system. The impact of many New Deal programs was both immediate and long-lasting, forever changing the relationship between Americans and the Federal Government. Our records include documents from agencies such as the National Recovery Administration, the National Labor Relations Board, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and the Public Works of Art Project.

Legislating Liability: The British ship *Titanic* was the largest luxury liner that had ever sailed and was considered by many to be unsinkable. When it sank during its maiden voyage in 1912, more than 1,500 died in the accident. Although the number of lifeboats on the *Titanic* exceeded requirements, the boats could only fit about half of the passengers aboard. Our records include a court case for this tragedy that would have long-lasting implications on safety.

Revolutionary Reformer: After decades of struggle, American women gained the right to vote in 1919 through a constitutional amendment. This reform was preceded by a long tradition of activism by many advocates who devoted their lives to the cause of woman suffrage. In 1872, Susan B. Anthony was arrested for voting illegally in the Presidential election. Our records include the court case in which she was tried and convicted, along with other stories of people fighting for equal rights.