



National History Day 2013

Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, Events Topic Ideas from the National Archives at Chicago

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is the nation's record keeper. We ensure continuing access to essential evidence that documents the rights of American citizens and the actions of Federal offices. We keep only those federal records that are determined to have continuing value. This includes textual records (such as letters, reports, and memoranda), maps, charts, architectural drawings, and photographs.

BUT

You don't have to go to Washington, D.C. to visit the National Archives. Located in Chicago, Illinois, the Great Lakes Region of the National Archives preserves records dating from approximately 1800 to the 1990s, created by Federal courts and government agencies in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

AND THESE RECORDS CAN HELP WITH YOUR HISTORY DAY SUCCESS

Selecting an interesting and researchable History Day topic will help you start on the path of History Day success. Therefore the staff at the National Archives in Chicago gathered our thoughts and assembled a few topic ideas related to our holdings and this year's National History Day theme: *Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, Events*.

THOUGH "NOT THE END ALL BE ALL"

Our ideas are just a small slice of possibilities. We encourage you to explore the topics below and think about others related to your community. In some instances, our documents tell you only part of the story, so you will need to do research at other libraries, historical societies, and archives.

TO ACCESS NATIONAL ARCHIVES AT CHICAGO MATERIALS

Some materials related to the topics we suggest are available online through our Archival Research Catalog (ARC), at <http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/>. For other items, you will need to visit our facility at 7538 South Pulaski Road, Chicago, Illinois. Though before you pay us a visit, please contact us first at 773-948-9001 or chicago.archives@nara.gov to save yourself time and ensure we have what you envision (some of our records are stored off-site).

And as always, make sure to review and thoroughly examine the secondary literature (textbooks, books written by other historians, and journal/magazine articles) related to your topic before delving into the primary source material.

Best wishes for a successful National History Day experience!

Selected Topic Ideas from the National Archives at Chicago

- The Government's reaction to Chinese immigration: The Chinese Exclusion Acts and records
- Government corruption and the prosecution of Illinois governor Otto Kerner, Jr.
- Denial of permits to march: The 1968 Democratic National Convention
- The Manhattan Project on the University of Chicago campus and the first sustained nuclear reaction
- Changes in public housing: *Dorothy Gatreaux v. Patricia Harris, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Chicago Housing Authority*
- The Iroquois Theatre fire and public safety
- The creation of a third league in baseball – *Federal League of Professional Base Ball Clubs v. National League of Professional Base Ball Clubs, American League of Professional Base Ball Clubs, et al.*
- Keeping our food safe: The 1906 Food and Drug Act and related court cases
- Reversing the Chicago River
- Treaty of Chicago (1833): The Potawatomi ceded the last of their Illinois and Wisconsin lands
- Discrimination in World War II production and the creation of the Committee on Fair Employment Practice
- The Pullman strike and the U.S. District Court injunction against Eugene Debs and American Railway Union officers
- The prosecution of Al Capone for income tax evasion
- Progress Development's plans to build a racially integrated housing development in Deerfield, Illinois in 1959
- Discrimination against women in the workplace: *Sears, Roebuck & Co. vs. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission*
- Desegregation of Chicago Public Schools: *James William Webb, Jr., and Andre Webb, minors, by James R. Webb, their parent and next friend, et al., vs. Board of Education, City of Chicago (1961)*
- Historical segregation and inequality of the Milwaukee public school system: *Armstrong, et al. v. Board of Education Milwaukee*

- The fight of female bartenders to work in Chicago: *Carolyn S. McCrimmon, et al. vs. Richard Daley, et al.* (1968)
- Rationing during World War II – The federal government’s efforts to control the economy
- The standard for color television
- Ottawa radium dial painters and workplace safety
- The 1917 East St. Louis riot (microfilm)
- The creation of the U.S. Life Saving Service in 1871
- Kent State University shootings on May 4, 1970
- The Comstock Act of 1873 and government’s efforts to legislate morality
- The establishment of the U.S. Food Administration during World War I.
- The prosecutions of Joseph Smith in Ohio and Illinois
- The “Indian New Deal” - the Indian Reorganization (“Wheeler-Howard) Act of 1934 and Federal policy toward American Indians
- Civilian Conservation Corps and the changing role of government
- The Menominee Indians and tribal termination
- The World War I Espionage and Sedition Acts and German-Americans in Ohio and Michigan
- Intelligence testing during World War I and the U.S. Army Air Force
- Creation of a market: The traveling salesman and his territory
- Turning points in patent law: Judge Blodgett from the Northern District of Illinois ruled that Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone
- Mormons on Beaver Island in Lake Michigan

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