

Class Meeting Dates

We will meet after school from 3:35 to 4:30 p.m. on your school's assigned day of the six day cycle. Following are the assigned dates for your school:

Jensen (Day A): 10/4, 10/12, 10/20, 10/28, 11/28, **12/8 (PAC)**, 12/14, 4/25, **NHD 5/1/06**

Karen Acres (Day B): 10/13, 10/21, 10/31, 11/16, 11/29, **12/8 (PAC)**, 12/15, 4/26, **NHD 5/1/06**

Olmsted (Day C): 10/6, 10/14, 10/24, 11/1, 11/30, **12/8 (PAC)**, 12/16, 4/19, **NHD 5/1/06**

Valerius (Day E): 10/10, 10/26, 11/3, 11/21, 12/2, **12/8 (PAC)**, 12/12, 4/21, **NHD 5/1/06**

Rolling Green (Day F): 10/11, 10/19, 10/27, 11/14, 12/5, **12/8 (PAC)**, 12/13, 4/24, **NHD 5/1/06**

Notes:

1. **On December 8, at 3:00 PM**, a bus will take you from your elementary school to the Urbandale High School PAC to work with a teacher from the Des Moines Playhouse on designing and performing a skit. **Your parent needs to pick you up at the PAC at 5:00 PM that day.**
2. Your parents are welcome to attend the class in April in case they have questions.
3. **On May 1, we will meet at 7:45 a.m. in the Valerius parking lot** to take the bus to the State Historical Society of Iowa. **When we return, the bus will meet us at 2:30 p.m. at the State Historical Society, and take you back to your own school.** Check in with your classroom teacher to let him/her know you're back. If you have an exhibit, take the display board to the Media Center to be shared with others. Take loose items home with you, however, so they will not become lost.

What Are We Going to Do?

What is National History Day?

National History Day is an exciting enrichment yearly program that helps students learn about historical issues, ideas, people and events. Each year there is a new theme. Students select a topic of interest that fits the theme, research it, interpret the information they find, and present their conclusions. Your goal is to become an “expert” on a particular historical topic.

What is the class going to do?

Although there are different ways to participate in National History Day, in this class everyone will choose to either create an **exhibit** using a folding display board or a standing tower, or to create a **performance** (skit). You may find this project is more fun to do with a partner, so if you’d like to work with someone else, you can form a small group of 2 to 5 students. If you create an exhibit, you will research, write and design your display board together, along with any displays items you add to the exhibit. If you create a performance, you will research, write and design your skit together, along with any costumes or props you add to your performance. If you prefer to work alone, that’s okay, too. When your project is completed, you will take it to the Youth Division Event on May 1 at the State Historical Society of Iowa, where it will be evaluated. You won’t be graded, but you’ll learn what other people think about the project you did. If you decide to do an exhibit, you will need to provide your own display board. If you decide to do a performance, you need to make, find or purchase the materials for your skit.

When and where will the work get done for this class?

We are meeting eight times to learn how to do the work. Before this eighth class, you will choose your own topic and begin working with a group or alone OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL. During the month of April, we will meet one last time at school to make sure you have all the parts of your exhibit or performance. You will need some help from parents in finding resources, but the writing has to be done by you, and the design of the display board or the skit has to be yours, too. We will use class time to learn about National History Day rules and procedures, and work with a sample topic so you will have an idea how to work with your own project. You must choose a topic that is different from the class topic, however! During class, you will also learn about the difference between primary and secondary resources, learn how to write an annotated bibliography, learn how to write a process paper, discuss how to put together an attractive, effective exhibit, and learn some basic performance skills that will help you feel confident at the Youth Division Event, even if you decide not to do a skit!

What are some topics I can research?

Your topic must fit this year’s theme, which is **Taking a Stand in History: People, Ideas, Events**. You can research ANYTHING that interests you, as long as it is related to this theme and as long as it is something that took place in the past. There may be some current events that you include in your project, but most of your project should be about past people, ideas, events or things. Feel free to come up with any topic that interests you!

Check Out These Web Sites for Ideas

American Journeys

www.americanjourneys.org

This Web site contains many documents about exploration in America. It was created by the Wisconsin Historical Society. The Web site includes links to eyewitness accounts by explorers, Indians, missionaries, traders and settlers.

Our Documents

www.ourdocuments.gov

This Web site contains America's 100 most important historical documents, such as the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, George Washington's First Inaugural Speech, and more.

George Meany Memorial Archives

www.georgemeany.org/archives/students.html

This Web site has information about labor, or improving people's working conditions and quality of life. It contains the records of the AFL-CIO, which stands for the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations. Some sample topics include why we have unions, the history of child labor in the United States and other countries, what working conditions were like in a poultry factory before World War II, and more.

The Best of History Websites

www.besthistorysites.net

This Web site contains links to over 1,000 history Web sites about ancient, medieval, U.S., and European history, World War II, art history, maps and more.

Library of Congress

www.loc.gov

The Library of Congress contains many different kinds of materials, including information about famous Americans, Colonial America, the Jazz Age, the Depression, America's interests, hobbies, sports, music . . . and much, much more!

National Archives

www.nara.gov

The National Archives contains not only America's official historical documents (such as the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation), but it also has online exhibits, the Presidential Libraries, military service records, World War II photos, information about landmark civil rights cases, and more.

National History Day Research Links

http://nationalhistoryday.org/06_students/06.html

The bottom half of this Web page contains links to museums, organizations, maps, pictures, song lyrics and other items from all over the world.

Basic Rules

1. Your exhibit must be related to the National History Day theme. This year that theme is **“Taking a Stand in History: People, Ideas, Events.”**
2. You must do your own research and make your own conclusions. This means you must think about why something happened or how it came about, or why it was important. You cannot use someone else’s research.
3. You can have **some** help and advice from teachers and parents. For example:
 - A. Your parents can suggest topics you might be interested in researching, and help you choose a topic.
 - B. You can have help with typing.
 - C. Your teacher or parent can provide advice or tips about where to find information, or ask you questions that will help you to come to a conclusion about what you read. However, you have to make your own conclusions!
 - D. You have to take photos yourself, not have a parent or someone else take the pictures.
 - E. Your parent or another adult may help you cut out items for your Display, but the design must be your own. Also, your parent or another adult can carry your exhibit on the day of the Youth Exhibition Event.
 - F. Your parent or another adult can help you make props, costumes or items for your Performance, but the design must be your own. Also, your parent or another adult can carry your Performance items on the day of the Youth Division Event, but once the Performance begins, only you can move things about.
4. If your display requires a VCR or TV, or some other equipment, you are required to provide that yourself, along with an extension cord. Talk to Mrs. Nolan if you are going to do this!
5. You should be prepared to have a discussion with a judge about your project at the Youth Exhibition Event.
6. You may not wear a costume for the Individual or Group Exhibit categories. You can, however, wear a costume for the Performance category.
7. You may not bring anything dangerous to the Youth Exhibition Event, although replicas of weapons and similar items are allowed if they fit your topic.
8. Your project must have a title on all written materials.
9. You are required to have a Title Page, a Process Paper, and an Annotated Bibliography. You must also separate your secondary and primary resources. We’ll learn more about this later!
10. The display itself must follow some specific size requirements, and there is a word limit for text as well. We’ll discuss this later.

Terms You Need to Know

Theme -

Exhibit -

Process paper -

Bibliography -

Annotated bibliography -

Primary resource -

Secondary resource -

Balanced research -

Artifact -

Search Engine -

Analysis -

Interpretation -

Historical context -

Visual impact -