

INNOVATION IN HISTORY

Sample Topics



How can the MdHS help with History Day?

SeaRCH

\$10/student (individual research sessions)

\$6/student (class research sessions)

\$3/student (introduction to primary sources lesson and activity)

Open Wednesday through Saturday by appointment

For reservations, call (410) 685-3750 ext. 346

The Maryland Historical Society's Student Research Center for History (SeaRCH) allows students access to the Society's extensive collection of primary source documents. Students will have the opportunity to work with a professional researcher to identify and analyze sources, conduct primary source research, organize thesis statements, and conceptualize research projects. SeaRCH is open Wednesday through Saturday by appointment and can be used by individual researchers or entire classes.

If you would like to research one of the following topics (and many more)
in the MdHS Student Research Center for History,
or if you would like to see if the MdHS has sources pertaining to your topic,
please call (410) 685-3750 ext.346 for more information.

Suggested History Day Topics

Innovation in History: Impact and Change

The Maryland Historical Society has thousands of sources related to this year's National History Day theme. Here are just a few of the many topics that can be researched using MdHS collections:

Colonial Maryland

- Act of Toleration
- The Mason and Dixon Expedition
- Iron Works in Colonial Maryland

The Early National and Antebellum Periods

- The Architecture of Benjamin Latrobe
- The Cholera Epidemics of 1832 and 1849: Sanitary Reform in Baltimore
- American Colonization Society
- The National Road
- The C&O Canal
- The B&O Railroad
- Baltimore Clipper Ships (Innovation in ship design)
- St. Frances Academy (African American Education)
- The Jew Bill (civil rights in MD)

The Progressive Era

- The Great Baltimore Fire and Reconstruction of the Burnt District
- Public Baths and Urban Reform
- Women's Suffrage Movement
- The Maryland State Board of Forestry and Conservation

The Great Depression

- The Failure of Private Charity in Baltimore and the Rise of the Welfare State
- The Federal Writers Project
- Historic American Buildings Survey in Baltimore
- The Planning and Construction of Greenbelt, Maryland

World War II

- The Civil Defense Network
- Aberdeen Proving Ground
- Edgewood Arsenal
- Rationing and Conservation
- The Glenn L. Martin Company (Aircraft)
- Bethlehem-Fairfield Shipyard and the Production of Liberty Ships

Modern America

- Fashion Designer Claire McCardell and the American Style
- Federal Highway Administration
- Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant
- Protection and Conservation of the Chesapeake Bay
- Nonviolent Direct Action and the Desegregation of Baltimore
- Artist Tom Miller and the Afro-Deco Style
- Construction of the Bay Bridge

Sample Topics

From the National History Day Theme Book

Gunpowder (or Longbow or the Stirrup): Revolutionizing Warfare
Metallurgy: Transforming Agricultural, Military and Artistic Tools
The Camera: Bringing the World into Focus
Windmills: New Labor Source
Panama Canal: Connections
Erie Canal: Transforming and Transporting
Irrigation: Urbanization of Communities
Ox Drawn Plow: Opening Trade, Transporting Goods
Electrum: Standard Unit of Measure
Anesthesia: Improving Surgery, Improving Health
Waterwheel: Harnessing Energy
The Compass and Exploration
Lateen Sails: Sailing Against the Wind
Gatlin Gun or Repeating Rifle: Faster than a Speeding Bullet
Telescope: Bringing the Stars into Focus
Gutenberg Press: Spreading Literacy to the Masses
Heliocentric Solar System: Centering our Thoughts on Astronomy
The Double Helix: Connecting the Dots
Atomic Energy: Harnessing the Atom
Mercator's Projection: A Grid of Directions
The Sextant: Guided by the Stars
Barometer: Under Pressure
Pendulum Clock: Measuring Time
Water-drive Mechanical Clock (1061 Peking): Measuring Time
Telegraph: Communicating through Code
The Steam Engine: Faster and Stronger
Spinning Jenny: Automation of Weaving
Canning: Preserving Food
Cotton Gin: Expanding Production and Slavery
The Cotton Gin: Increased Production
Automated Loom: Speed Weaving
Transcontinental Railroad: Linking a Continent
Electricity: Shedding Light
Photography: Capturing Time
Refrigeration: Cold Storage
The Reaper: Slicing through Labor Costs
Sewing Machine: Seamless Production
The Sewing Machine: Joining the Industry
Dynamite: Exploding and Expanding Construction Projects
Plastics: The Gift that Won't Stop Giving
Internal Combustion Engine: Speed and Energy
Telephone: Communication Connection
X-Ray: Seeing through the Future
Household Vacuum: Cleaning Up
The Vacuum Cleaner: Redefining Roles
Airplanes: Transforming Transportation: Connecting the World
Polio Vaccine: New Hope
Penicillin: Saving Lives
Laser Technology: Curing without Cutting
Barbed Wire: Fencing the Future