



Rights and Responsibilities in History

History Day in North Dakota

North Dakota Theme Ideas:

Westward Expansion

- Fur Traders and Companies
- Fur Trading Posts
- Fort Clark
- Fort Pembina
- Fort Union
- Metis
- Lewis and Clark and the Louisiana Purchase
- Sakakawea
- Effect on Native Americans
- Smallpox
- Steamboats
- Treaties

Civil War in North Dakota

- Alfred Sully
- Henry Sibley
- Civil War Battles and the American Indian

Military Presence on the Frontier

- Fort Abercrombie
- Fort Abraham Lincoln
- Fort Yates
- Fort Rice
- Fort Totten
- George Custer

Settlement of North Dakota

Agricultural Innovation

Railroad in North Dakota

- Alexander McKenzie
- Changes brought on by railroad

Early Reservation Era

- Assimilation of American Indians
- Indian Boarding Schools
- Dawes Allotment Act
- Clothing and Food Rations on the Reservations
- Sitting Bull

Women in North Dakota

- Women's Christian Temperance Union
- Linda Slaughter
- Elizabeth Anderson
- Women homesteaders

Non-Partisan League

- State Mill and Elevator
- State Bank
- A.C. Townley
- Independent Voter's Association

The Great Depression

- Works Progress Administration
- Civilian Conservation Corps
- North Dakota Farmers Union
- Development of rural electric cooperatives
- Crop failures

- William Langer
- Federal Emergency Relief Administration (F.E.R.A)

World War II

- Fort Lincoln Internment Camp
- Responsibilities of those on the Home Front
- Selective Service Act

Garrison Dam

- Building of Garrison Dam
- Loss of land for farmers and Native Americans
- Fort Berthold Reservation
- Garrison Diversion

Civil Rights in North Dakota

- Judge Ronald Davies
- Indian Citizenship Act of 1924
- Woman's Suffrage

Industry, Energy, Environment

- Oil Discovery
- Bakken Formation
- Lignite Coal mining
- Reclamation
- Flood protection

Governors of North Dakota

Legislative Action

General Information

Congratulations on your interest in National History Day! This year's theme for the competition is "Rights and Responsibilities in History." Believe it or not, North Dakota history is full of issues dealing with civil and social rights as well as environmental responsibilities! From the entrance of the French fur traders in the 1700s to the building of the Garrison Dam in the 1950s, all episodes in history have created decisions for the people of North Dakota. Now is your chance to focus on one of these issues and how it influenced North Dakota history.

Although the theme is broad, this gives you a chance to research something that interests you. Begin brainstorming a topic. If you are not sure where to start digging for a theme, check out a book on something you are interested in North Dakota history. Also, look into *North Dakota History: Journal of the Northern Plains*, this is a magazine published by the State Historical Society which is all about historical events in North Dakota.

This page is a list by subject of primary and secondary sources available at the State Archives in the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck. Many publications are available at various libraries around the state and available through interlibrary loan. Some manuscript collections are available on microfilm, which can also be found through interlibrary loan. The reference staff at the state archives is always willing to answer any questions about the collections available at the archives.

After selecting your topic, begin brainstorming what kind of project you would like to enter in the competition. There are several you can choose from. Documentary, paper, exhibit, website, and performance are all options for entries. Do you like working in groups? You are in luck; every type of entry except the paper is available for group participation.

In order to have a great entry, primary sources are a necessity! Primary sources are those from the time period or something written by someone who experienced the time period. For example, when Martha Gray Wales recalls her time as a little girl at North Dakota's military posts, this is a primary source because she was there and experienced it. A primary source could be a diary, journal, map, photograph, records, or interviews, just to name a few. When studying a primary source, ask yourself the questions why, where, when, and what is the importance of this document to my topic. Primary sources make your research credible. Be sure to use *many* primary sources.

Secondary sources will help you locate the primary sources that will be most helpful in your research. Make sure to check the bibliography in the secondary source to find other sources that may help you too.

North Dakota provides a lot of great resources right at your fingertips. Don't forget to check out Digital Horizons, a collection of pictures, diaries, and other items that may help you research your turning point. Also, make sure to check out your local library and archives. Expand your horizons; do not just use websites or Google for everything.

Good luck and have fun researching North Dakota history!