



Welcome to NHD!

Please use this guide as a
starting point for your
research.



Wisconsin Topic Exploration

National History Day®

INTRO

Early
History

Explorers &
Settlers

Treaties &
Sovereignty

Territory to
Statehood

Wisconsin
Innovation

Trade and
Industry

Quick Access

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INTRO

Early History

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INTRO

Why Choose a Wisconsin Topic?

Wisconsin has a rich history and is full of great ideas for your History Day project. Your National History Day project can help you to find amazing local stories that have helped shape your history! Using local resources and strong research can also make your project more competitive.

Resources:

If you choose a topic based on the state or city in which you live, there may be more resources easily available to you than if you select a more national topic.

This is especially evident in the availability of primary sources (such as newspaper articles, photos, or letters) which will provide a strong foundation for your project and are easily accessible through state resources and research outlets.

Local Connections:

You may be surprised to find out that an influential individual from Wisconsin lived in your own community and perhaps helped shape your life today. This personal connection may help you throughout the project as you learn more about your home and the ties to your own life.



INTRO

National and World History Topics

Of course, you can choose a national topic! This guidebook highlights local and state topics because there are so many resources available right here in Wisconsin.

But if a topic on the national or international stage strikes your interest, please pursue it.

- While there may be more books, articles, or web sites devoted to a national topic, make sure you still have access to **primary sources**.
- Is there a local connection you could investigate?

This will help you focus your topic so it's narrow enough for you to properly research. For example, instead of looking at women's roles in manufacturing during WWII, how did women in your own community respond to the war effort?

- Taking a new look at a common topic by changing your point of view is another way to give your project an attention-grabbing twist. You may know a lot about a group that supported an event or cause, but what about the other side or those who opposed it? For example, the 1889 Bennett law required school lessons in certain subjects be taught in English. People responded in many different ways that are important to the history of this law.



INTRO

Once You Think You Have a Topic...

Make sure it fits the NHD theme for this year. **This guide includes a small sample of the many Wisconsin histories that could be a great topic for your NHD research!**

Not all the topics listed in this booklet will fit the annual theme. Think about potential resources you might find. Have fun!

For more information on this year's theme, visit the [National History Day](https://www.nhd.gov/) website for current information.

This Worksheet will help you to analyze your topic.
Click on the image to go to a printable version.



**WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

THE HISTORY DAY TOPIC TEST

Spend quality time deciding on a topic for National History Day. Choosing a topic is the single most important decision you will make as you complete your History Day project, so don't just settle on the first thing that pops into your head. Try exploring several possibilities before settling on one.

Once you think you have a topic selected, run it through the topic test below. Meeting the following criteria is important to selecting a good topic and will result in a more enjoyable National History Day project.

My topic is NARROW.
Your topic is specific enough that you can examine it fully in the amount of research and presentation time you have. Choosing a narrow, manageable focus for your project will allow you to gain a more complete understanding of the historical topic you're addressing and become a true expert.

I am INTERESTED in my topic.
A History Day project is a long-term project. Since you'll be working with your topics for a while, make sure it catches your interest and makes you want to learn more.

My topic is HISTORICAL.
Very recent events generally don't make good historical research projects since we don't yet understand all the results of the event. In general, try to pick a topic that takes place more than 20 years in the past. About how many years ago did your topic take place? _____

My topic is SIGNIFICANT.
Examine a historical topic that had an impact, whether on the local, national or global level. What came as a result of the topic you're exploring? What would have been different if it had never happened? How did a local occurrence reflect or influence events on a larger scale?

My topic relates to the THEME.
Make sure your topic relates to the theme in a fundamental way. How does your topic relate to the theme?

There are primary and secondary RESOURCES available on my topic.
Plan ahead and check to see what resources are out there about your topic. What resources are available?

Collecting, Preserving, and Sharing Stories since 1846
816 State Street Madison, Wisconsin 53706
[wisconsinhistory.org](https://www.wisconsinhistory.org)

Early History

First Peoples

People have inhabited the land we now call Wisconsin for 14,000 years and perhaps much longer. Indigenous peoples have always lived here and have had complex social, political, and economic relationships with one another.



A rabbit or deer effigy mound near Lake Mendota in Madison, c. 1914. Photo: Wisconsin Historical Society.

Aztalan

Aztalan was once a village inhabited by Mississippian and Late Woodland peoples whose trade networks extended over large areas of North America.



Aztalan
Friends of Aztalan State Park



Early History

Human Rock Art

Scattered across the Upper Great Lakes there are carefully crafted images painted and carved into rock exposures. These images appear to depict humans, animals, spirit beings, and a variety of other things. Consider their engineering and how they may be preserved.



Roche-A-Cri State Park
Travel Wisconsin

Mounds

Did you know that there are more mounds in Wisconsin than any other state in the country? People who lived in this region throughout the Woodland period and later built a large number of earthen mounds throughout what is now southern Wisconsin.

Some of these mounds were a quarter of a mile long and used for ceremonies, burials, or to mark a territory. They were commonly shaped as an animal such as a panther, turtle or birds. These mounds are known as effigy mounds and they dot the landscape of our state.



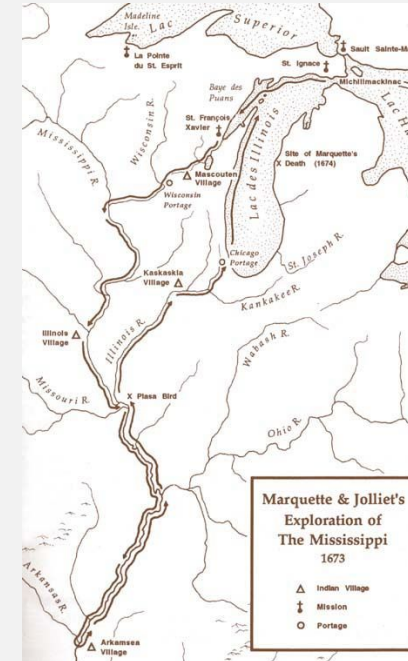
Explorers and Settlers

Jean Nicolet's Search for the South Sea

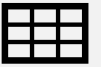
(1598-1642) Jean Nicolet was an early European emissary to Wisconsin. He was no stranger to travel when he arrived. He began his career studying as a translator and working for Samuel de Champlain. In 1634, while he was an interpreter and diplomat in New France, he was asked to be an ambassador. He arrived in what we now know as Green Bay to begin stabilizing trade relations between the Indigenous nations and New France.

Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet

In 1673, Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet traveled the Fox-Wisconsin River system and became one of the first Europeans to travel across the Mississippi River. They recorded their observations in maps and journals as they went.



Map of Marquette and Joliet's Exploration, Illinois State Museum,



Explorers and Settlers

Charles Michel de Langlade (1729-1801) De Langlade had both European and Odawa (Ottawa) ancestry. He held military positions under French and English governments and earned prestige with many different groups of people. He was a leader in the French and Indian War in 1755 with roles in several major battles. After the Revolutionary War he settled in Green Bay, WI and claimed the title "The Father of Wisconsin."



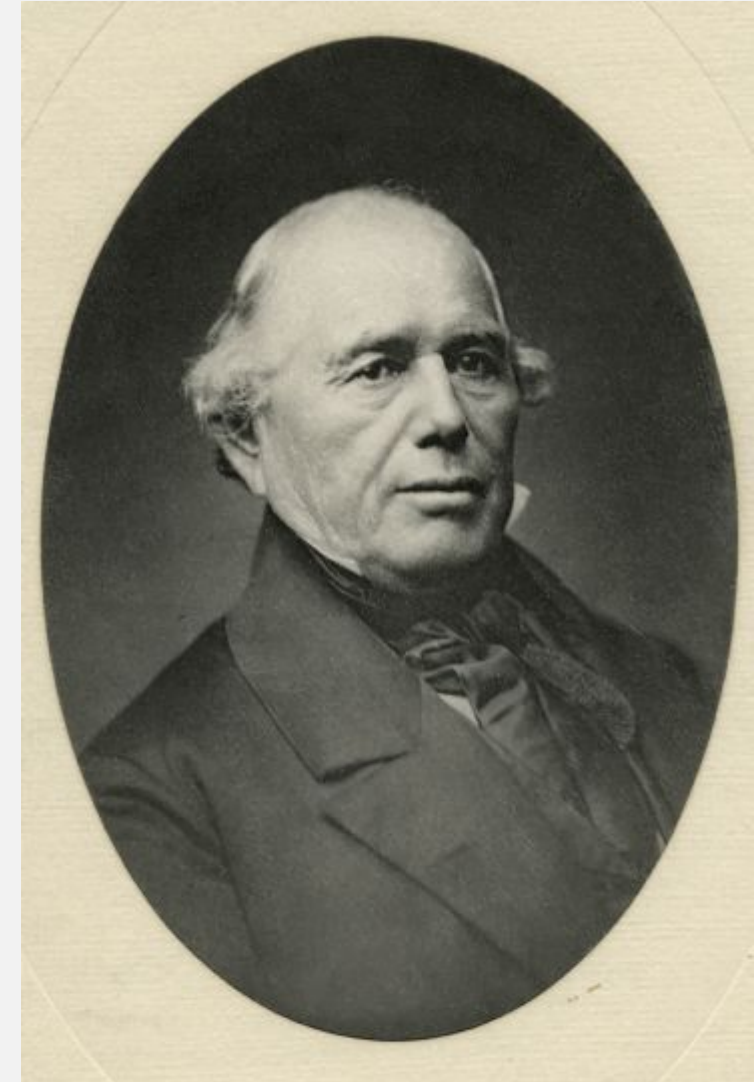
Langlade Historical Society Seal, designed by noted sculptor Sidney Bedore, bearing an idealized likeness of his ancestor Charles de Langlade.
Wisconsin Historical Society



Explorers and Settlers

Rev. Eleazer Williams: Lost Dauphin of Wisconsin

(1788-1858) Believe it or not, an early Wisconsin conspiracy theory said that the "Lost Dauphin," the missing son of King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette of France, was living in Wisconsin. Eleazer Williams was originally a missionary working among the Oneida peoples in New York. After his arrival in the state, he made this claim. This supposed title gave him the chance to trick many, including his own family, promising them favors. All of these promises would remain just talk, as doubt always remained as to his true identity.



Eleazer Williams,
University of Wisconsin - Green Bay



Treaties and Sovereignty

Treaties and Treaty Councils

Treaty negotiations became increasingly significant to First Nations as the U.S. federal government and settlers moved into what is now called Wisconsin. Removal policies began in the 19th century and forcibly removed many First Nations. Many of these treaty negotiations were driven by private interests in land and natural resources.

Treaty of Chicago

The Treaty of Chicago forced the Potawatomi Nation to cede millions of acres of land and forced removals west of the Mississippi. Many left for the allotted lands in Kansas. Some Potawatomi chose to relocate to Wisconsin instead. Others stayed in the Chicago area.



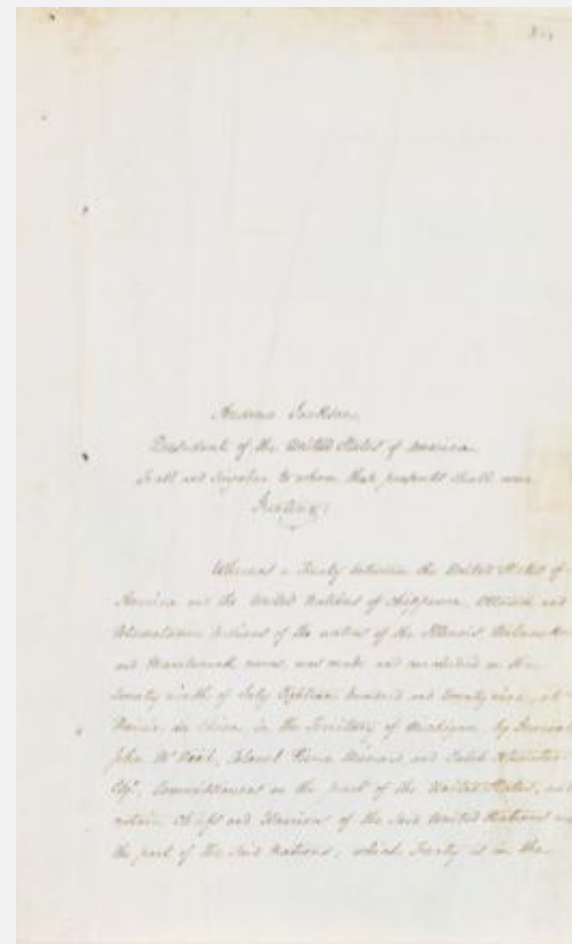


Treaties and Sovereignty

Treaty of Prairie du Chien

In 1825, the U.S. Government invited leaders of several Native nations to Prairie du Chien in the area now known as Wisconsin. Thousands of Indigenous peoples attended the gathering. The purpose of the treaty negotiations were twofold: establish a lasting peace between the Native nations of the Upper Midwest and create lines of separation between these nations and Euro-American settlers. Dozens of leaders of the Dakota, Ojibwe, Sauk, Fox, Menominee, Iowa, Ho Chunk, Ottawa, and Potawatomi signed the agreement. The United States would go on to use these boundaries during individual treaty negotiations with different Native nations.

The original treaty is available to read in its entirety in the [National Archives](#).



Treaties and Sovereignty

Treaty of 1854

Thanks in part to the work of Chief Oshkosh, the Menominee in Wisconsin did not have to move west of the Mississippi. Instead they saved over 250,000 acres of Wisconsin forest, near the important fishing grounds of the Wolf River.

Kechewaishke (Chief Buffalo)

Kechewaishke is best known for resisting U.S. Government removal policies of the mid 1800s and securing the rights of the Ojibwe bands to hunt, fish and gather on ceded territory. A signatory of the 1825 Treaty of Prairie du Chien, Kechewaishke was recognized as a leader and negotiator for many bands of Ojibwe. As such he was in the forefront as the Ojibwe fought to defend their treaty rights. Though later treaties guaranteed the Ojibwe a homeland in Wisconsin, in 1850 President Zachary Taylor ordered the removal of the Ojibwe from their land to west of the Mississippi.

In 1852, a delegation of Ojibwe led by the 92-years-old Kechewaishke made the long journey to Washington to lobby President Fillmore to stay on their land. Their negotiations were successful, and the Treaty of 1854 secured their land, continued compensation for ceded land, and hunting, fishing, and gathering rights.





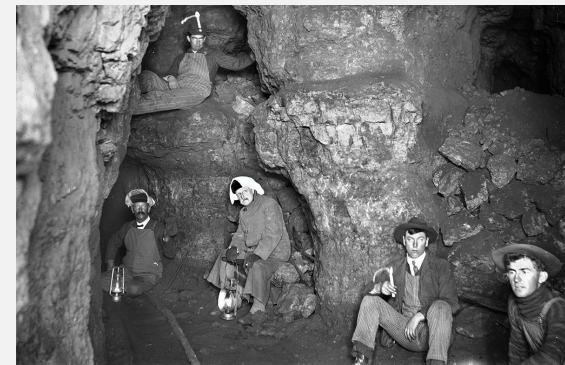
Territory to Statehood

James Duane Doty Promotes Madison as Capital

(1799–1865) James Doty was part of an exploratory expedition to Wisconsin in 1820 and was active in the politics and government of the state for the next 30 years. Most notably, Doty began purchasing and developing land in what is now called Madison. Doty promoted and campaigned to make this city the new state capital and profited from his success. Doty went on to serve as the territorial governor from 1840–1844.

The Lead Rush

Beginning in 1815 settlers came to Southwestern Wisconsin in hopes of mining for lead. Lead was valuable for making things like lead shot for ammunition, pipes, as well as toys and paint. Many Native peoples had mined in the area for hundreds of years before this. As demand increased and word of the mineral spread, Euro-American miners began to steadily arrive in Grant, Crawford, Iowa, and Lafayette counties.



Miners in a Lead Mine, Cassville, WI (Grant County)
Wisconsin Historical Society

Territory to Statehood

The Northwest Ordinance, 1787

Following the creation of the US Constitution, representatives of the thirteen colonies tried to figure out how new states would be added to the union. The Northwest Ordinance called for the creation of three to five new states in a three stage process. The ordinance also allowed for a bill of rights protecting religious freedom, the writ of habeas corpus, and other individual rights. A system of education was encouraged and slavery was forbidden in the new territory.

Joshua Glover, Sherman Booth, and the Fugitive Slave Law



In 1848, Wisconsin joined the United States as a "free state," meaning that slavery was illegal in the boundaries of the state. Many freedom seekers made their way north into Wisconsin, while others continued to Canada. In 1850 the US Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Act. This meant that regardless of state laws, any enslaved person trying to escape was to be apprehended and returned to their enslaver.

In 1854, Joshua Glover put this to the test. Escaping enslavement in Missouri, Glover headed north along the Underground Railroad (URR). Landing in Racine, he was eventually discovered and recaptured by slave hunters. Sherman Booth, an abolitionist, rallied hundreds of people to free Glover from the jailhouse in Milwaukee where he was being held. Glover continued his escape to Canada along the URR while Booth was arrested for violating the federal act. Years later, just before the Civil War broke out, the Wisconsin Supreme Court "nullified" the Fugitive Slave Act.

Wisconsin Innovation

Jerome Increase Case and the Threshing Machine

(1819-1891) The shift from manual labor to large scale mechanized farming had significant impacts throughout the United States. One of the innovations behind this began in Wisconsin with Jerome Increase Case and his threshing machines. The impact of this innovation spread far beyond the borders of the state as it allowed farmers to harvest more effectively.

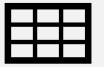
Christopher Latham Sholes Invents the Typewriter

(1819-1890) While Sholes was active in publishing and politics, his most famous accomplishment was the development of the first practical typewriter and the QWERTY keyboard (which we still use today).



Sholes-Glidden Typewriter
Wisconsin Historical Society





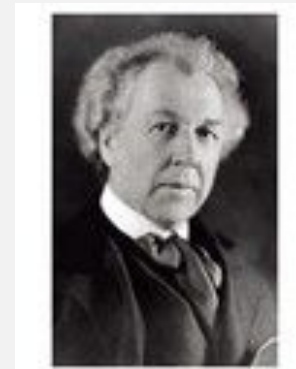
Wisconsin Innovation

William Horlick and Malted Milk

(1846–1936) In the mid 1800s, Horlick and his brother began working in food manufacturing in Racine and produced the dried milk product known as malted milk. Today we think of malted milk as a tasty treat when mixed with ice cream, but its applications were much wider and included infant formula and rations for explorers. His business grew into numerous branches, but Horlick remained in Racine where he began philanthropic work.

Frank Lloyd Wright's Architectural Innovations

(1869–1959) Wright's architectural work and influence extends far beyond the state of Wisconsin and his hometown of Richland Center. More than designing homes and buildings, Wright created a whole new architectural style in which the buildings harmonized with their environment.



Portrait of Frank Lloyd Wright, 1930
Wisconsin Historical Society

Wisconsin Innovation

WHA Radio Hits the Airwaves

In 1915 the University of Wisconsin began transmitting radio signals on 9XM (now WHA), making it the oldest radio station in the nation. This broadcast was only Morse code at first, but as technology improved, the station began to air weather, news, and music for its listeners.

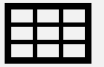
9XM and the first transmission of Human Speech and the creation of Public Radio Wisconsinology



Milwaukee Electric Railway Letterhead,
Wisconsin Historical Society

Electric Streetcars Change Wisconsin Cities

Electric street cars became common transportation in many Wisconsin cities in the 1890s as cities abandoned the use of horse-drawn carts. Appleton was one of the first places where it was used after the city built a hydroelectric plant to power the city. Many other Wisconsin cities followed this model and built tracks. Business and neighborhoods grew along the routes of this new, popular way to travel.



Trade and Industry

Early Trade

Since time immemorial people have traveled and traded in this region using water routes such as rivers and lakes. These ancient trade networks crisscrossed the entire continent. Indigenous residents of the Great Lakes region used these trade routes to obtain a wide range of items each group needed and valued. The French and other colonial private interests tapped into this trade network and obtained the resources they needed for consumers back in Europe. Many different goods were traded--fur, cloth, lead, silver and glass jewelry, guns and ammunition, tools, and food.

Lumbering in Wisconsin

As early as the mid-1800s logging was a major industry in Wisconsin. It lured workers and business to the state, supplied people with wood for homes and industry, and helped give rise to cities, such as Stevens Point and Wausau. Not all of the cities lasted some were abandoned, like the Ghost Ports on the Michigan shoreline. As the number of trees in the forests diminished at the start of the twentieth century, much of the lumber industry shifted to paper production.



Logging Camp
Wisconsin Historical Society



Trade and Industry

Wisconsin Farmers Transition from Wheat to Dairy

As the United States spread westward in the mid-1800s, Wisconsin farmers planted enough wheat to earn a spot as the third greatest producer in the nation. That all changed, however, in the 1860s as other western states began producing wheat and an infestation of chinch bugs began devouring Wisconsin wheat. Farmers quickly needed another farming option and turned to dairying.

Kimberly-Clark, Kleenex, and the Paper Industry

Founded in 1872 in Neenah, this company began by operating paper mills. After World War I, the company began using cellucotton, which was used as a cotton substitute during the war. They used cellucotton to create the first disposable handkerchief, Kleenex, in 1924. Since its inception the company has acquired other consumer goods production companies and expanded to plants around the world.



Neenah Paper Mill
Wisconsin Historical Society



Trade and Industry

SC Johnson Goes Beyond the Wax

This family-owned company opened in 1886 after Samuel Curtis Johnson purchased a parquet flooring business in Racine. The company advertised on radio from the 1930s through the 1960s, growing popular opinion of their wax products. By 1992 the company had purchased other large companies that produced household and cleaning products. S.C. Johnson continues to be family run to this day, making much more than wax.



Edward Phelps Allis Entrepreneur and Manufacturer



Edward Allis
American Business
History

(1824-1889) Edward P. Allis helped to revolutionize steam engines, agricultural equipment, and heavy machinery. He built a worldwide reputation for his enormous Milwaukee factory. Merging with the Fraser and Chalmers Company in 1901, the Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company continued to build machinery for most of the twentieth century.

Trade and Industry

John Michael Kohler and the Kohler Company

Founded in 1873 by John Michael Kohler, the Kohler Company began by purchasing the Sheboygan Union Iron and Steel Foundry. Their major breakthrough came when Kohler enameled a cast iron horse trough in 1883 to create a new type of bathtub. Today the company creates numerous plumbing fixtures, which can be found across the globe.



John Michael Kohler
Wisconsin Historical Society



THE SATURDAY EVENING POST 111

A blessing three times a day
The KOHLER ELECTRIC SINK

Thrice-daily drudgery—every woman knows that's the most that can be said for dishwashing by hand!

What a blessing, then—what a three-times-a-day blessing—is the new exemplar of the modern kitchen, the Kohler Electric Sink.

With it you can wash the dishes electrically, as easily as pressing a button; wash them gleamingly, spotlessly clean, without even wetting your fingers. Think of being able to end now, for the rest of

your life, every bit of the unwelcome labor that dishwashing always has meant!

There is a Kohler Electric Sink for your kitchen. There are right-hand and left-hand models, with or without drainboard. There is a separate dishwasher unit to install alongside your present sink, if you prefer.

Whatever type you choose, you may buy it (installation cost included) on time. Ask your Plumber about it, and mail us the coupon below.

KOHLER CO., Founded 1873, KOHLER, WIS.
Shipping Point, Sheboygan, Wis. • Branches in Principal Cities

KOHLER OF KOHLER
Plumbing Fixtures

KOHLER CO., Kohler, Wis.
Gentlemen: Please send the booklet which tells about the Kohler Electric Sink.

Name _____
Address _____
S. E. P. 2294

Kohler Company Advertisement, 1926
Kohler Company

Wisconsin and War

Lucius Fairchild: Soldier and Governor

(1831-1896) From county circuit clerk to general of the Iron Brigade at Gettysburg, Fairchild served the people of Wisconsin and the United States. After losing an arm at Gettysburg, he returned to Wisconsin to fill numerous political positions, eventually becoming governor. Fairchild was involved with advancing many causes and worked with veterans' groups.

Cordelia Harvey Fights for Soldiers' Hospitals in the North

(1824-1895) After the death of her husband, Governor of Wisconsin Louis P. Harvey, Cordelia Harvey was committed to continuing the work he had started to improve the hospital conditions for Wisconsin soldiers serving in the Civil War. Relentless in her quest to bring wounded soldiers back home to Northern hospitals, she personally petitioned President Lincoln to establish three hospitals in Wisconsin.



Cordelia Harvey
Wisconsin Historical Society



Wisconsin and War

Civil War Draft Riots in Wisconsin

President Lincoln instituted a draft in 1862, which was unpopular in some communities. On November 10, 1862 roughly 300 rioters attacked the draft office in Port Washington and vandalized the homes of Union supporters until troops arrived to quell the disturbance. The same week in Milwaukee, protestors shut down the draft proceedings. In West Bend, the draft commissioner was beaten and chased from the scene.



The Iron Brigade Fights for the Union

The Iron Brigade was Wisconsin's most famous war unit. They fought in the Army of the Potomac, suffering many casualties at Gainesville, Antietam, and Gettysburg.



The Iron Brigade and the Black Hat
Wisconsin Veterans Museum

Wisconsin and War

Anti-German Hysteria

In the early 1900s, Milwaukee was home to a large population of German residents. Many of these people were second and third generation, without many direct ties to Germany. During WWI, many Americans became nervous about the existence of German spies and traitors in their neighborhoods and seemed intent on removing all things German from their community. To help ease fears and pass laws to deal with treasonous behavior, Congress passed the Espionage Act in 1917 and the Sedition Act of 1918.



William Mitchell and the US Air Force

(1879-1936) Beginning his military service during the Spanish-American War, Mitchell quickly became interested in flying. His knowledge helped him lead air missions in France during World War I, however, he found himself in a position of disagreement with his superiors over one particular issue. Mitchell vehemently believed in the future potential of air power for the military and even went as far to demonstrate air power's superiority by bombing battleships in a test. Disagreements continued, he was court-martialed for his behavior, and then resigned. Even after this event, Mitchell continued to advocate the importance of air power and is known today as the "Father of the U.S. Air Force."

Wisconsin and War

Richard Bong Becomes a WWII Ace Pilot

(1920–1945) Richard Bong, of Poplar, was one of the many Wisconsin men and women that served their country during World War II. Bong joined the military as a flying cadet and soon gained notoriety by shooting down a record number of enemy planes, becoming one of Wisconsin's most decorated war heroes.



Richard Bong
Wisconsin Historical Society

Wisconsin Women During WWII

During World War II, Rosie the Riveter was a well-known symbol of the homefront effort. More than just a poster, thousands of Wisconsin women were real life "Rosies" as they worked to support the war at home. Wisconsin women not only replaced the men who had joined the armed forces during World War II, but also served in the military as healthcare personnel, parachute riggers, cryptographers, weather observers, and ferry pilots.



Wisconsin and War

Code Talkers

During and prior to World War II, many people from the Oneida, Ojibwe, Ho-Chunk and Menominee Nations served as Code Talkers. They used Indigenous languages to create secure military communication codes which the enemy could not decipher. These efforts were vital in the defeat of the Allied forces. Code talkers were required to keep their work a secret - a practice that continued even after the war was over.

Manitowoc Submarines During WWII

In the early years of World War II, the Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company became the only inland U.S. shipyard to construct submarines. The company eventually constructed 28 vessels for the Navy.



USS Cobia
Wisconsin Maritime Museum

Wisconsin and War

Project ELF and Cold War Defense

Built by the U.S. Navy in Clam Lake, Project ELF (Extra Low Frequency) was designed to facilitate communication with the Navy's nuclear submarines in other parts of the world. It used extremely low frequency waves to transmit information into the deep ocean through the granite bedrock of this region. Since its construction in 1969 it has been a controversial facility. The U.S. government saw this as a potentially useful defense tool during the Cold War. Others felt that potential health risks would outweigh this benefit.

Dickey Chapelle Documents History

(1919-1965) Chapelle was a photographer and writer from Shorewood. She was one of the first female foreign war correspondents to cover World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam War. Chapelle also did freelance writing for prominent American magazines and was interested in humanitarian efforts. She was killed by a land mine while covering the Vietnam War.



Dickey Chappelle at the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway, 1959
Wisconsin Historical Society

MKE History

Juneau, Kilbourn, Walker, and the Founding of Milwaukee

Milwaukee's location on three rivers and a major body of water have made it an economic and social hub. Native Nations navigated these waters to meet and trade. Beginning in the 1830s, European traders established three main settlements in the area for easy access to Indigenous buyers and suppliers. After years of conflict and competition, the settlements combined to form Milwaukee in 1846.



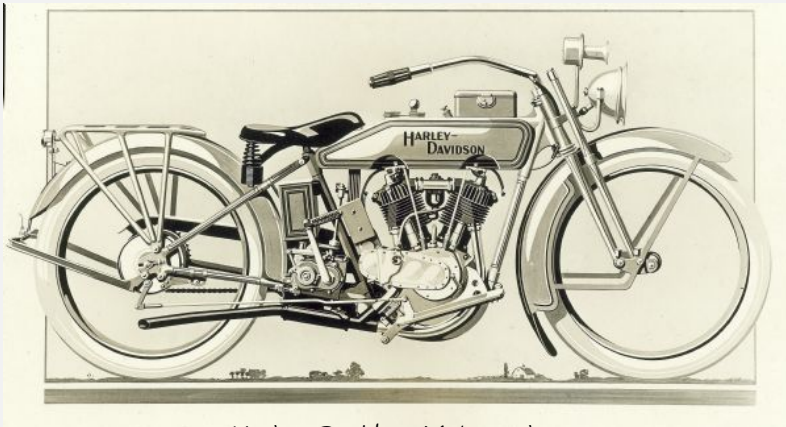
Phillip Best, Frederick Pabst, and Milwaukee Breweries

(1814-1869) Phillip Best immigrated to Wisconsin from Germany at the age of thirty and founded one of Milwaukee's first breweries. By shipping beer to Chicago, the brewery grew rapidly and helped to forge Milwaukee's association with brewing. Son-in-law Frederick Pabst took over the brewery after his retirement. He operated the company as Phillip Best Brewing Company until 1889 when he became sole owner and changed its name to Pabst Brewing Company.

MKE History

Harley-Davidson Motorcycles

Led by founders William Harley and Arthur Davidson, Harley-Davidson produced the first motorcycle in the early 1900s. After their first model was built in 1903, the company saw increased demand for their machine with the unique V-twin shaped engine.



Harley-Davidson Motorcycle
Wisconsin Historical Society



Lizzie Kander and the Settlement Cookbook

(1858-1940) Lizzie Kander advocated for reforms to improve home life in Milwaukee in the 1890s. Some of her most notable work involved the first settlement house in Milwaukee, which provided classes and programs to help welcome new immigrants to the country. Her efforts resulted in The Settlement Cookbook, which combined recipes and housekeeping ideas. More than 40 editions of this book have been printed!

MKE History

Mathilde Franziska Anneke

(1817-1884) Mathilde Anneke was born in Lerchenhausen, Germany but came to call Wisconsin home. Once here, she continued her pursuit of the ideal of freedom, including women's rights and opposition to slavery. She published a suffragist newspaper, Deutsche Frauen Zeitung and founded a girls' school in Milwaukee with Cecilia Knapp. Mathilde became known as a leader in local and American women's issues, particularly suffrage.

Golda Meir: Israel's First Female Prime Minister

(1898-1978) In 1907, Golda Meir was one of the many new immigrants to Milwaukee. Although her time in Wisconsin was brief, it was influential in her later quest to establish a homeland for Jews in Palestine. She moved there in 1921 and was active in many Zionist organizations and the Israeli government. She was elected as Israeli Prime Minister in 1969 and served until 1974.



Golda Meir
Wisconsin Historical Society



MKE History

Sewer Socialism

Sewer Socialism was a Milwaukee based movement which took place between the years of 1892 and 1960. Morris Hillquit, a founder and leader of the Socialist Society of America and a prominent New York lawyer, was the first to coin the phrase "Sewer Socialism" at the 1832 convention of the Socialist Party of America. It was meant as a commentary of the Socialists in Milwaukee and their pride of installing an excellent public sanitation system. The actual movement encompassed more than just sanitation, it led Milwaukee to be known as a center for Socialism in the United States.



The March on Milwaukee

As late as the 1960s, Black men and women were denied access to the same housing as white people in Milwaukee. This forced the growing Black population to remain in inner city locations. Black leaders such as Lloyd Barbee and Vel Phillips joined forces with white allies such as Father James Groppi to lead the March on Milwaukee helping advance the movement for racial equality in the city. As a result, the anti-discrimination policies that had first been introduced by Vel Phillips in 1962 were ratified by the city council in 1968 in an attempt to address racial discrimination in Milwaukee housing.

MKE History

Milwaukee Fourteen Protest the Vietnam War

Reactions to the Vietnam War were not limited to college campuses. In Milwaukee, fourteen men, now known as the Milwaukee Fourteen, took a stand against the war on September 24, 1968 by stealing nearly 10,000 draft cards from Milwaukee's draft board and burning them in public with homemade napalm. Protesters remained at the site, singing hymns from the Gospel until police and fire departments arrived on the scene.

The Milwaukee Road

Known by several different names since the mid-1850s, the Milwaukee Road was actually based in Chicago. Its rails crossed the nation, reaching throughout the Midwest by the 1880s and to the west coast by the 1910s. The Milwaukee Road was known for transporting goods and people with innovative electrified lines and high-speed passenger trains even while struggling with financial difficulties that led to multiple bankruptcies.



Milwaukee Road Sign
Milwaukee Road
Historical Association



Movements and Change

Frances Willard Advocates for Temperance

(1839–1898) Willard grew up in Janesville. Beginning in the 1870s she began working with the Women's Christian Temperance Union and became a leader in the temperance movement. Eventually becoming president of the group, she helped to expand their focus to include several reform issues, including labor and suffrage.

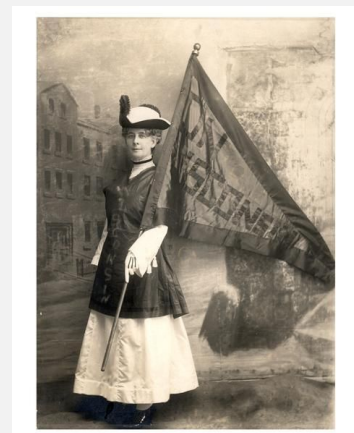
Electa Quinney and Education

Wisconsin's first public school teacher and a member of the Stockbridge-Munsee band of Mohicans. Educated by Quakers, Quinney wanted to teach the children of the Stockbridge-Munsee community near Kaukauna.



Theodora Winton Youmans and Votes for Women

(1863–1932) After graduating from Carroll College, Youmans wrote for the "Waukesha Freeman" on suffrage and women's rights. She led the campaign for women's suffrage in Wisconsin and won the support of several reluctant groups. She went on to work with other suffrage leaders on the national level to help pass the 19th Amendment.



Theodora Winton Youmans
Encyclopedia of Milwaukee

Movements and Change

Lloyd Barbee Fights for School Integration in Milwaukee

(1925–2003) A graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School, Barbee was a strong advocate of equality in educational opportunities for Black Americans in Milwaukee. To support this cause he founded the Milwaukee United School Integration Committee (MUSIC) and legally challenged Milwaukee Public Schools to integrate. A 1976 federal ruling prompted the state to begin a school integration program.

Ezekiel Gillespie and Voting Rights in Wisconsin

(1818–1892) Moving to Milwaukee in 1851, Gillespie became involved in the movement for voting rights for Black people. With the encouragement of local abolitionists, he tried to register to vote in 1865, but was denied. He took the case to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, who ruled that Black men could vote in 1866 and had the right to since 1849.



Ezekiel Gillespie
Wisconsin Historical Society



Movements and Change

Vietnam Anti-War Movement on Wisconsin Campuses

Protest against the Vietnam War took place on campuses across Wisconsin, including marches, teach-ins, and draft card burnings. Most notably, Madison's Sterling Hall was bombed on August 24, 1970.



"Dow Day" protests, UW Madison
Wisconsin Public Radio

The Eight-Hour Workday and the Bay View Massacre

On May 5, 1886, after days of marches and protests as part of a national movement in favor of the eight-hour workday, several thousand marchers moved towards the Bay View Rolling Mills in Milwaukee. Governor Jeremiah Rusk ordered the militia to fire and stop the crowd, killing seven.



Wisconsin State Militia Soldiers in Bay View
The Milwaukee Notebook



Movements and Change

First in the Nation - LGBTQ legislation outlawing discrimination in employment and housing

In February of 1982, Wisconsin became the first state in the nation to pass a law outlawing discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment and housing. The law, signed by then Governor Lee Dreyfus, was the first of its kind. There would not be another state to pass this type of legislation for nine more years.

Oshkosh Woodworkers' Strike

In 1898, mill workers in Oshkosh went on strike. Under the union leadership of Thomas Kidd, 1,500 woodworkers, including many women, participated in a significant 14-week strike for better wages and working conditions.



Trial of the Oshkosh Woodworkers' Strike
The Oshkosh Northwestern



Movements and Change

Wisconsin Bicyclists Advocate for Better Roads

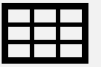
Even before gasoline-powered automobiles filled the roadways, a movement took hold in Wisconsin in the early 1890s to improve our state's country roads. The Good Roads Movement brought together the support of a variety of interests, including businesses, farmers, and engineers. It was the bicyclists, however, who initially lead the charge for better roadways.

The Birth of the Republican Party

In 1854, fifty three Rippon residents, who opposed the Kansas-Nebraska Act, met in Ripon. They crowded into a small building, where they resolved form under a new "Republican" party, whose purpose would be to oppose slavery in western territories.



Little White Schoolhouse
Wisconsin Historical Society



Movements and Change

Ada Deer

A nationally recognized social worker, community organizer, activist, and political leader, Ada Deer of the Menominee Nation was a champion of Native rights who led the successful campaign to restore federal recognition of the Menominee Nation. As head of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, she participated in the development of U.S. policies on international human rights and advocated for the rights of indigenous peoples everywhere.



Spearfishing Rights

Wisconsin in the late 1980s and early 1990s was a location of significant, controversial, and sometimes violent protests against Ojibwe rights granted through U.S. treaties. The controversy affected members of Ojibwe tribes and their right to hunt, fish, and gather on ceded territories. Many Wisconsin residents had little or no knowledge of Indigenous rights and history, prompting the passage of Act 31 as state law.

Immigration

German Migration

Germans were the largest group of immigrants to both Wisconsin and the United States in the 19th century. Most Germans entered in three major waves between 1845 and 1900, spurred by political, social, and economic upheaval. The earliest groups came for largely religious and political reasons. Those who migrated after mid-century were primarily farmers, artisans, and laborers. By 1900, German-born residents constituted about ten percent of the total population and around 47 percent of the foreign-born population in Wisconsin.



The Great Migration

During The Great Migration thousands of Black Americans moved to Wisconsin and other parts of the northern United States. Individuals were drawn to Wisconsin by the industrial jobs in northern cities. Most of the new residents came from Mississippi, Arkansas, and Tennessee.



Construction Workers at Milwaukee City Hall, 1896
The Encyclopedia of Milwaukee

Immigration

Migrant Farm Workers in Wisconsin

During World War II and in the decades following the war, Wisconsin farm employers came to rely heavily on migrant labor. With the help of federal and state labor programs, Wisconsin farmers recruited thousands of workers from Mexico, the Caribbean, and Texas. By 1947, the majority of agricultural workers in the state were Texans of Mexican descent, or Tejanos, who helped transform the state into an agricultural powerhouse.

Hmong Communities in Wisconsin

After the Vietnam War, hundreds of thousands of Hmong people fled Laos and Vietnam as refugees. In the 1970s, thousands of Hmong settled into states like Wisconsin through government and church-sponsored programs. Over time, Hmong communities in Wisconsin, particularly in cities like Milwaukee and Wausau, have grown, establishing businesses, cultural institutions, and political representation.



Hmong in Wisconsin
Wisconsin Historical Society

The Arts

Albert Ringling and the Ringling Brothers Circus

(1852-1916) Albert Ringling had an interest in the circus as a young man. That interest would grow into the most well-known circus in the world. Ringling began his circus career with his brothers in Baraboo. The show grew over the years with the acquisition of animals, and especially with the purchase of the Barnum & Bailey Circus in 1907.



The Ringling Brothers
Wisconsin Examiner

Pulitzer Prize Winner Zona Gale

(1874-1938) Novelist, playwright, and short-story writer Zona Gale used her background and experiences in small town Wisconsin to gain national acclaim. Gale was one of the few fiction writers of her time to write contemporary stories emphasizing local stories. Gale became the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1921.



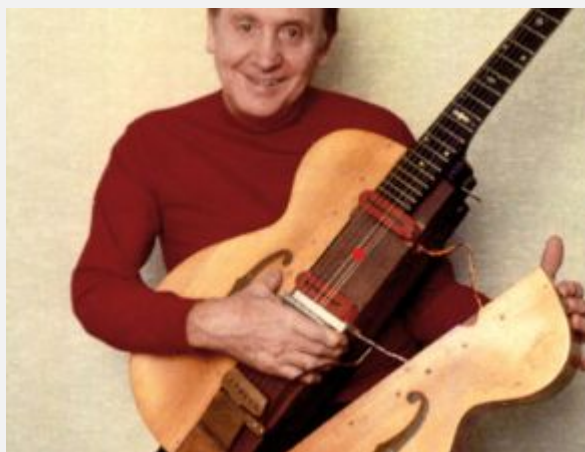
Portrait of Zona Gale
Wisconsin Historical Society



The Arts

Les Paul and the Electric Guitar

(1915–2009) Paul is known for innovations in the world of music. More than just playing guitar, Paul was responsible for the sound of many forms of modern music, including blues, alternative, and metal. He developed the solid-body electric guitar and also effects, such as multitrack recording, to be used in sound recording.



Les Paul and "The Log"
Les Paul Foundation



Margaret Newell H'Doubler and Modern Dance

Moving to Madison in 1903, H'Doubler attended the University of Wisconsin to study biology and philosophy. After being influenced by new forms of music education, H'Doubler began to teach dance. Her form of dance was feminine but also allowed students to describe their movement in terms of science. She returned to the University of Wisconsin and helped to establish the first dance major in the country and documented her unique style in the five books she authored.

The Arts

Vinnie Ream, Sculptor

(1847–1914) Vinnie Ream became the first woman and youngest artist to receive a federal commission for her work. Most famously she created the full-size marble statue of Abraham Lincoln for the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. She went on to create several other significant pieces for the National Statuary Hall Foundation.



Vinnie Ream
The Library of Congress

Cinematic Visionary: Orson Welles

(1915–1985) Born in Kenosha, Welles became a famous writer and director. His radio broadcast of "War of the Worlds" is known for causing panic among public listeners. His film "Citizen Kane" is also considered an American classic.



Orson Welles
Wisconsin Historical
Society





The Arts

Harry Houdini Enchants the Country

(1874–1926) Erik Weisz was born in Hungary and moved to Appleton as a child. He began his career as a magician under the name Harry Houdini. By the early 1900s, his magic and escape acts had made him famous.



Harry Houdini
The Smithsonian Magazine

Georgia O'Keeffe Paints the American Southwest

(1887–1986) Born in Sun Prairie, O'Keeffe's art is most commonly associated with the American Southwest. Her paintings gained fame after exhibits of her work opened across America in 1916 and made her reputation grow. She moved to New Mexico where she lived until age 98.



Georgia O'Keeffe
Georgia O'Keeffe Museum

The Arts

Alfred Lunt, Lynn Fontanne, and Ten Chimneys

For over 50 years, Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, one of the most famous acting couples of their generation, made their summer and, later, retirement home at Ten Chimneys in Genesee Depot. Here, they entertained fellow actors and playwrights and worked on new plays and acting methods. In addition to being a theatrical laboratory, Ten Chimneys was the setting for the Lunt's promotional press.



Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne
Wisconsin Historical Society



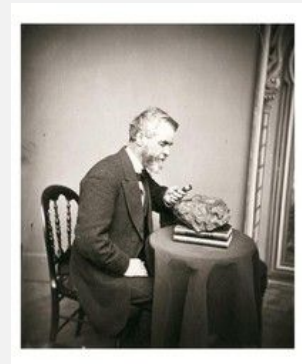
Conservation

John Muir

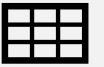
(1838–1914) Born in Scotland, Muir began his life in Wisconsin by working on his family farm. While attending college at the University of Wisconsin, Muir spent his time creating unique inventions to ease daily life, such as his clock-desk that kept track of his study time. His love of wilderness prompted him to explore the country. It was in California that Muir began working to preserve nature, founding the Sierra Club, publishing articles, and promoting conservation.

Increase Lapham

(1811–1877) Often referred to as the first Wisconsin scholar and ecologist, the interests of Lapham covered many branches of science. He wrote approximately 80 books, including important titles on conservation, Indigenous mounds, and maps of Wisconsin landscapes. He worked to establish educational opportunities throughout the state and also helped found the National Weather Service.



Increase Lapham
Wisconsin Historical Society



Conservation

Gaylord Nelson and Earth Day

(1916–2005) After serving in World War II and becoming a lawyer, Gaylord Nelson moved into politics. From the state senate, to governor, to the U.S. Senate, Nelson served the state of Wisconsin for the majority of his adult life. He is well-known for founding Earth Day and creating a following for the conservation movement.

Menominee Forest

The Menominee Forest has been sustainably managed by the Menominee Tribe for more

than 150 years. Harvested trees are either sick, dying or have fallen down naturally and are replaced. The same acreage has more trees than it did over a century ago, with some being trees over 200 years old.

Milly Zantow and EZ Recycling

Recycling wasn't always a way of life as it is today. Thanks to Milly Zantow who noticed the problem of too much plastic waste in her Sauk County community. She quickly went to work and devised a numbering system for plastic used to identify them for recycling. Her method is now used across the nation and internationally.

Libraries and Archives

An archive is a specialized library that collects one-of-a-kind materials related to topics that connect to their mission and areas of interest. Items in an archive, such as government documents, personal papers, photographs, maps, diaries, letters, and other ephemera (other odds and ends like ticket stubs and event programs) are organized into folders and stored in boxes.

The Wisconsin Historical Society and Area Research Centers provide archival research opportunities across the state. Many university libraries and even some public libraries have archival materials as well.

Doing research in an archive is a very special experience. If the archive you wish to visit has a collection related to your topic, you will find a wealth of unique source types. This kind of research can also be time consuming – it may take time and careful searching before you find something you feel is truly helpful to your research.

Some Archive Do's and Don'ts

Do...	Don't...
→ Review the archive's collection - through the online catalog and finding aids - to discover if they have sources to support your topic.	→ assume the archive will have primary sources on your topic.
→ Contact the archive before you go. They can guide you to useful collections and have materials ready for you when you arrive.	→ just show up and expect to have materials you can look at immediately.
→ Prepare for archival research with a strong foundation in secondary source research.	→ expect the sources to provide general background on your topic.
→ Follow the posted rules of the specialized library. They are there to protect this very unique collection!	→ treat the archive like it should be just like the other libraries you've met.
→ Come prepared to struggle with handwritten documents and slow research progress.	→ give up.
→ Have an awesome time exploring this unique glimpse at history!	

Libraries and Archives

This list includes some of the archives you may want to visit to conduct research for your National History Day project. Please contact the Library you are interested in visiting prior to your visit. This gives Librarians and Archivists time to prepare materials prior to your arrival if necessary.

[Wisconsin Historical Society Library and Archives](#)

816 State Street, 2nd Floor
Madison, WI 53706

Please email

askarchives@wisconsinhistory.org

[Marquette University Archives/Raynor Library](#)

1355 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Please call-(414) 288-7256

[Milwaukee County Historical Society](#)

910 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Milwaukee, WI 53203

Please call-(414)267-7487



Thank you!

[UWM Archives](#)

Golda Meir Library
2311 E. Hartford Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53211

[Please make an appointment.](#)

[Wisconsin Black Historical Society and
Museum](#)

2620 W. Center Avenue
Milwaukee, WI

Please call - (414) 372-7677
or email - info@wbhsm.org

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