



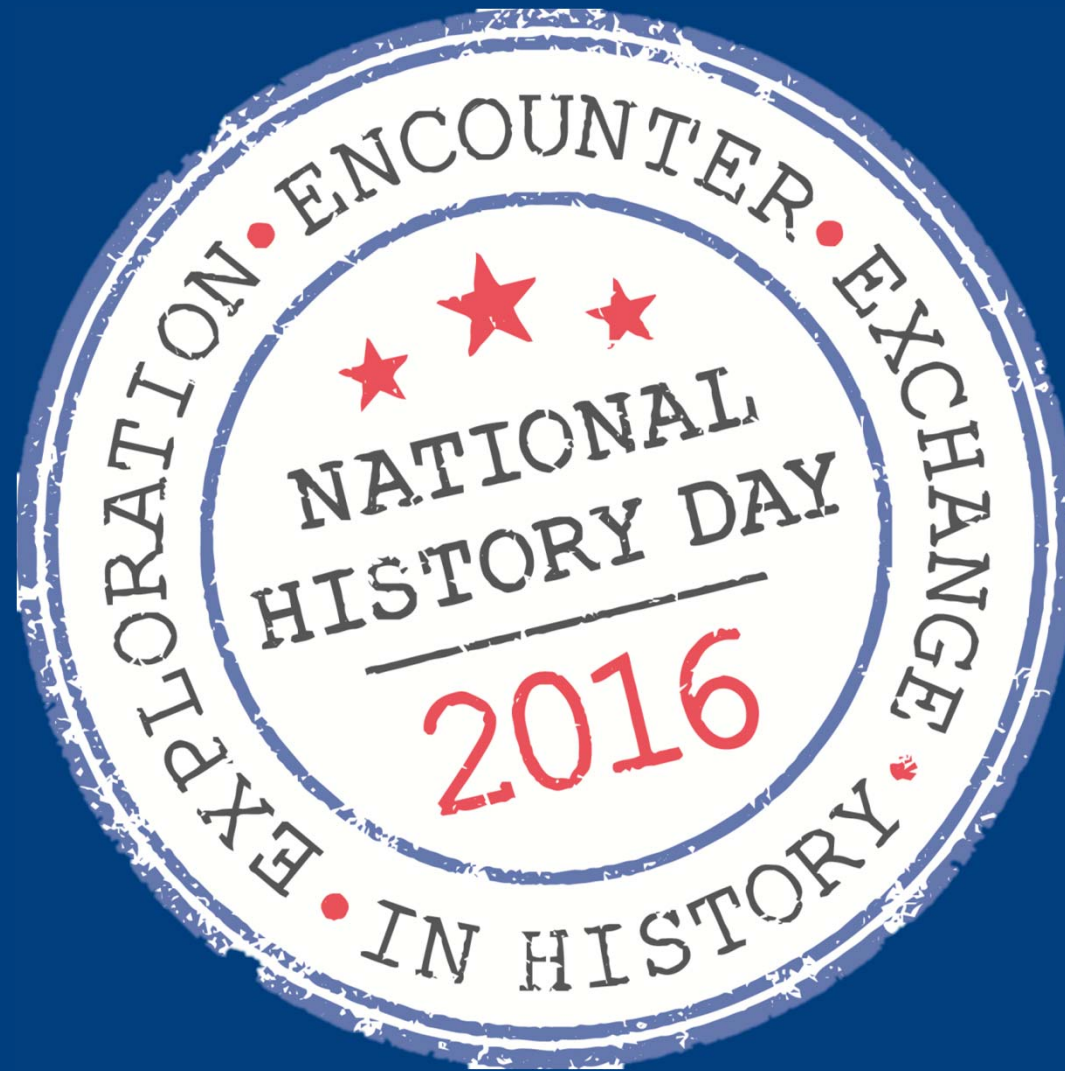
W I S C O N S I N
H I S T O R I C A L
S O C I E T Y

“Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History”

2016 National History Day in
Wisconsin Theme Guide

wisconsinhistory.org

The Annual Theme



The Annual Theme

- Annual theme applies to everyone
- Topics must connect to annual theme
- Think about it: How does the theme connect to the argument that you are making about your topic?



Define

- **Exploration, Encounter, Exchange:** What is happening in your topic where interactions between people, places, or ideas are changing each other?
- **Exploration could be physical, military, cultural, scientific, etc.**
- Make sure you address not only the exploration but also what the exploration encountered and what was exchanged in your topic.



What Does Exploration, Encounter, Exchange Mean?

- **Exploration** is going somewhere new, either physically or in search of new ideas, concepts, or testing theories.
- **Encounter** is what is found at the new place. This can be a new culture, environment, ideas, etc.
- **Exchange** is how the connections made through exploration and encounter influence the people, societies, cultures, and geographies that are connected.



In History

- You need to look at the significance of your topic over time
- Topics should *not* be current events
- In general, try to base topics on events that took place at least 20 years ago



Choosing a Topic

- One of the most important decisions you'll make for National History Day!
- Choose something you love!



HUGE Variety of Possible Topics

- Brainstorm! Don't stop with just your first idea.
- Exploration, Encounter, and Exchange can be found in all areas and time periods of history.
- Think about the relationship between the topic and the events that came before and after it:
 - Why did it happen?
 - What impact did it have?

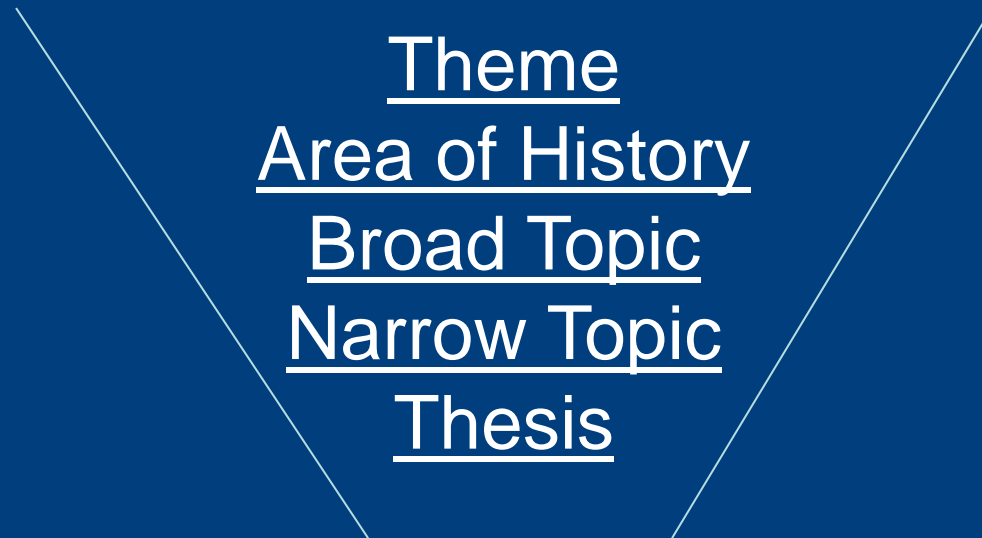


Sample Topics

- These topics are not the only ones out there
 - Just a few ideas from many areas of history
- Where can you find more ideas?
 - Think about your interests
 - Talk to your teacher, parents, classmates
 - Look through your textbook
 - Visit the library or a museum



Narrowing Topics

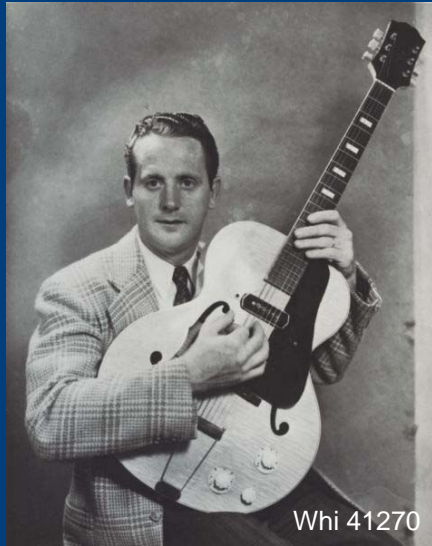


Take a big idea and narrow it to a manageable size for National History Day



Science and Technology

Les Paul and the Electric Guitar



Les 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. How have Paul's innovations in music create an exchange between different musical genres? How did it allow different artists to encounter and collaborate with each other?

Ada Lovelace

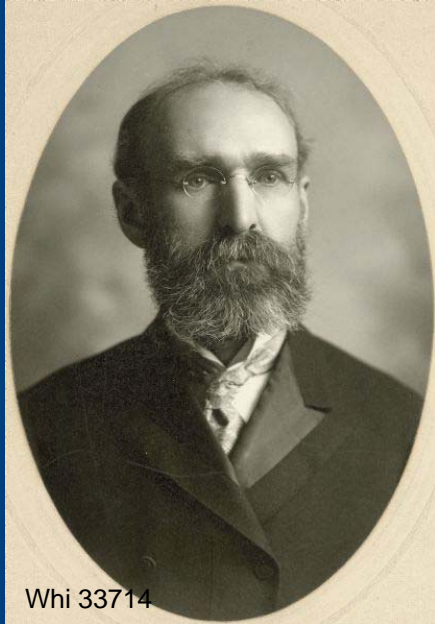


Whi 81656

Ada Lovelace, born in England in 1815, is known as the first computer programmer. She was also a mathematician and writer in a time where women were confined in tight societal roles. What exchanges led her to be able to explore mathematics? What encounters did she have that challenged her work? What obstacles did she run into, and what success did she find?

Education

Charles Van Hise and the "Wisconsin Idea"



The Wisconsin Idea is based on the philosophy that the universities in the state should serve the people of the state and improve the quality of life for all those living within it. This idea expanded beyond education to influence politics and Progressive reforms. How does this idea govern the state today? How does it encourage encounter and exchange between Wisconsinites?

Brown v. Board of Education

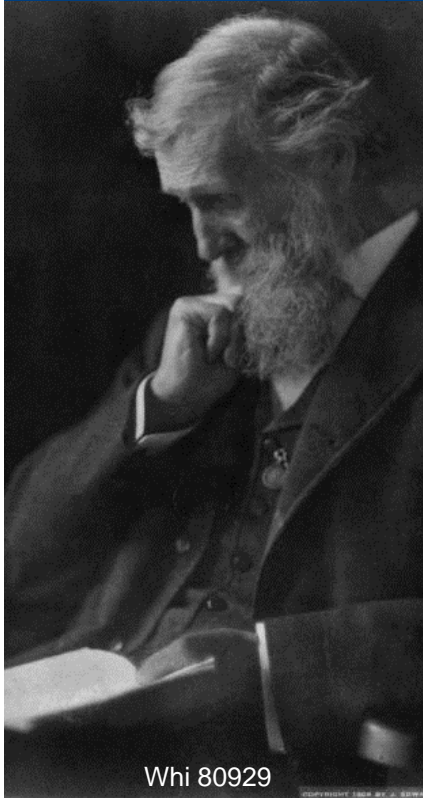


Brown v. Board established equal education for all races in the U.S. The idea of integrating the schools of America was a tumultuous time in our history. How did Oliver Brown and the NAACP change how African Americans lived in America? How did the lawyers explore different options to desegregate schools? How did the first African American students encounter their white classmates, and what was their first exchange like?



Environment

John Muir Inspires Conservation



Whi 80929



Whi 1946

Born in Scotland, Muir began his life in Wisconsin by working on his family farm. Nearly going blind from a factory accident, Muir walked from Indiana to Florida, trying to experience as much nature as possible. In California Muir began working to preserve nature, founding the Sierra Club, publishing articles, and promoting conservation, eventually leading to the foundation of our National Parks Service. How did Muir's exploration lead to the National Parks Service? How do people encounter natural places differently because of Muir?

Gaylord Nelson Finds Earth Day



Whi 57066

Nelson was a Wisconsin native who took on political office. 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. What exchanges had to take place for Earth Day to become a national holiday?

Famous Figures

Frank Lloyd Wright



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 explored a whole new architectural style in which the buildings reflected how people encountered their environment. How did the innovative architecture of Wright change the way buildings were designed? What exchanges did Wright have with other architects of his time? How did people react when they encountered his architecture for the first time?

Lewis & Clark



Lewis & Clark originally crossed the continent to document the landscape. What right did they have to explore? Who and what did they encounter? What exchanges took place between them? Who helped them explore?



Military History

Alonzo Cushing



Whi 34188

Alonzo Cushing was born in Delafield, WI and died at the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863 after his heroic actions that led to his being awarded a posthumous Medal of Honor ever in 2015. As an officer, Cushing had to explore the best options for his men to follow in battle. How did Cushing exchange orders from his superiors to his men? How did he encounter the enemy?

Athens and Sparta: Military Encounter and Exchange



The Peloponnesian War was fought between the Greek City-States of Athens and Sparta from 431-404 BC. This war was an encounter between two very different civilizations: one a democracy and one a military-based oligarchy. How did these two powers explore their options in the war? What kind of exchanges between the two sides led to the war? How did Greece change after the war?

Politics and Government

“Fighting Bob:” Robert M. LaFollette

La Follette developed his fierce opposition to corporate power and political corruption as a young man. A Republican almost his entire career, he went from Congress to WI governor to the U.S. Senate. His support for progressive reforms, rousing oratory, and frequent clashes with party leaders earned him the nickname “Fighting Bob.” How did his encounters with the people of Wisconsin lead him to fight for political reforms? How did he explore different options for what issues he should tackle? What exchanges inspired his movement?



Whi 5455

The Camp David Accords

In the 1970s President Jimmy Carter brought together Egyptian President Anwar El Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin in over a week of secret negotiations at Camp David. Their exchange of ideas led to an exploration of peace between the two warring nations. How did the atmosphere of Camp David create a place where these two leaders could encounter each other with more trust than they could without President Carter’s efforts?



Whi
73795

Social Issues

Ada Deer



Whi 92318

Ada Deer was born in Wisconsin as a member of the Menominee tribe in 1935. She dedicated her life to protecting the rights of Native Americans and led a successful campaign to restore federal recognition to the Menominee tribe. She later became the head of the US Bureau of Indian Affairs. How did her exploration of Native American rights lead to an exchange of laws and political discussion? What obstacles did she encounter on her mission?

The Little Rock Nine



The Little Rock Nine were a group of nine African American students who wanted to attend a previously all-white school after *Brown v. Board* declared segregation unconstitutional. How did their exploration of their rights lead to violent encounters? What kind of exchange had to happen to allow these students to attend school?

Transportation

Harley-Davidson Motorcycles



Whi 2544

Harley-Davidson produced the first motorcycle with founders and friends William Harley and Arthur Davidson 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. How did this machine change transportation? How did it impact how people were able to explore? What kind of new encounters do people have on these bikes? What sort of exchange of culture has resulted from the motorcycle?

The Transcontinental Railroad



Whi 103250

Built in the 1860s, the Transcontinental Railroad was the first continuous railroad that linked the Pacific coast to the Mississippi. How did the evolution of trains lead to greater exploration by the average American? What sort of problems were encountered while building this railroad? What exchanges had to take place for it to be completed?



Women in History

Golda Meir: Israel's First Female Prime Minister



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 with her husband, and was active in many Zionist organizations and the Israeli government. She was elected as Israeli Prime Minister in 1969 and served until 1974. How did her encounters in Wisconsin shape her future in Palestine? How did her exchanges with Palestinians shape her leadership in Israel?

Rosalind Franklin



Rosalind Franklin was an English chemist who was critical in her exploration and discovery of how DNA is structured. Born in 1920, what kind of prejudice did she encounter as a woman scientist? What kind of exchanges took place between her and others working on the human genome?



Arts & Literature

Lynn and Alfred Lunt



Whi 10507

Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne are largely considered the most influential acting team from America. At the peak of their careers they both took major pay cuts because they believed their art was more important than their salary. This allowed them more control over their contracts, and with this freedom they were able to explore acting the way they wanted. This led the way from oratory theater to a new style of naturalism. What kind of encounters did they form for their audience? How did they exchange with other actors or playwrights?

Albert Bierstadt



Albert Bierstadt was a famous romantic landscape painter of the late 1800's. He is especially famous for his portraits of American National Parks. How did people's encounter with Bierstadt's art inspired them to explore the American West? What kind of exchange took place between Bierstadt and other artists? How did the public react to his art?

Where can I find more ideas?

- Sample topic lists from NHD and NHD in Wisconsin
- Talk to your parents, teachers, friends
- Pick an area of history that interest you and explore the library
- Email us:
historyday@wisconsinhistory.org





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