



### **What is History Day:**

National History Day is an academic competition focusing on history students in grades 6-12 (though 4th and 5th graders may participate in the elementary division). It is a lot like a Science Fair for History.

It is a non-profit education organization based in College Park, Maryland and the NHD contest encourages more than half a million students around the world to conduct historical research on a topic of their choice that relates to the theme of that particular year.

### **What do Students do:**

Students will look through libraries, archives and museums, conduct oral history interviews, and visit historic sites researching a topic related to the National History Day theme. After they have analyzed and interpreted sources, and have drawn a conclusion about the significance of their topic, they will then be able to present their work in one of five ways: [as a paper, an exhibit, a performance, a documentary, or a website](#). An explanation of each category can be found at the link.

The Elementary Division (4th-5th Grade) may only participate in a poster that is 30"x40" in size and does not exceed 350 words. It may either be done individually, or as a group project.

### **2020 Theme:**

Every year National History Day frames students' research within a historical theme. The theme is chosen for the broad application to world, national, or state history and its relevance to ancient history or to the more recent past. The 2019-2020 theme is *Breaking Barriers*. The theme book below is full of information on how to use that theme as well as project ideas.

### **Helpful Resources:**

[NHD Theme Book](#)

[NHD Partner Resources](#)

[Student Resources](#)

[Project Examples](#)

[Graphic Organizer](#) for Students to Organize research information

[Theme Narrative](#) with lists of project ideas

[Teacher Resources](#) for integrating National History Day into your class.

[Rubrics used for judging](#) (\*Note these are not final rubrics according to the website)

### **Springs Important Dates for History Day:**

**December 13th:** River Springs Charter School District Competition (Student must attend judging with their completed project in Temecula at the event center)

**March 14:** Riverside County History Day Competition

**May 8-10:** National History Day California State Competition in Rocklin, CA

**June 14-18:** National History Day Competition, College Park University of Maryland

Need more information contact:

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