


**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.

**2019 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 2018-2019 theme is *Triumph & Tragedy in History*. The theme book below is full of information on how to use that theme as well as project ideas.

**Helpful Resources**:
NHD Theme Book
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 14th:** River Springs Charter School District Competition (Student must attend judging with their completed project in Temecula at the event center)

**March 18:** Riverside County History Day Competition

**May 10-12:** National History Day California State Competition in Rocklin, CA

**June 9-13:** National History Day Competition, College Park University of Maryland

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